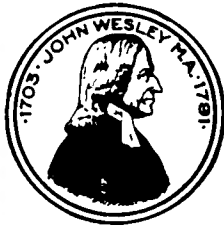


The History of the Bedford Light Artillery

By

Joseph A. Graves



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The
Bedford Light Artillery
1861-1865.

THE HISTORY
OF THE
BEDFORD LIGHT ARTILLERY,

BY

REV JOSEPH A. GRAVES,

Author of "History of Bethesda Church," and "Center
Point Letters."

BEDFORD CITY VA.



1903
PRESS OF THE BEDFORD DEMOCRAT
BEDFORD CITY VA.

TO

THE OFFICERS AND MEN, ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR THE
WAR, OF THE BEDFORD LIGHT ARTILLERY, THIS
HISTORY OF THEIR BRAVE DEEDS AND PA-
TIENT SUFFERINGS, IS MOST RESPECT-
FULLY DEDICATED.

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

The author herewith submits to his comrades of the Bedford Light Artillery a complete history of the Company. It contains an account of their movements, from the date of the organization of the Company, until they returned home from the Civil War.

In its preparation, extending through five months, he has relied upon these authorities; information from comrades, his diary, authentic histories, and the History of Parker's Battery. Having used these authorities in a proper manner, he has been able, to give reliable dates and facts, and to write with accuracy and definiteness.

However, he expects comrades to challenge the accuracy of some of his statements. For, since they differed among themselves about facts when questioned about them, these same comrades will differ among themselves about facts and events, when printed in history. Be that as it may, he has allowed nothing in the history, save what is sustained by good authority.

Comrades were more indefinite, in their statements about the loss of the Battery in killed and wounded, than in reference to any other matter. Hence the author made this rule: to give a list of the killed and wounded in the Battery only as far as he could be accurate. But the author believes it a just and conservative statement to say that the entire loss of the Battery in killed and wounded during the entire war, was about sixty men.

This is the only history that gives any account of the occupation of Jamestown Island by our troops in 1861 and 1862. I have therefore dwelt on it at some length. Very few histories have a word to say of Longstreet's retreat from Knoxville to Russellville. Not one word do they say of the fight at Bean's Station, nor of our barefooted soldiers at Russellville, I have therefore brought out the facts.

The writer has aimed to set forth the facts, which belonged to the history of the Bedford Light Artillery just as they occurred, also to tell of their sufferings and hard-

ships. But the writer has not aimed to magnify the Bedford Light Artillery at the expense of any other Bedford Company. We claim to have done our duty, to have maintained our personality, *and to have been the only Company ever organized in Bedford, to fight as light artillery*; but we utterly repudiate the idea, that we did it all, and perish the thought, that we would take one single laurel from any company. The author could have written many beautiful sentences about the other Bedford Companies, but this was not the time nor place for them. These companies will manage their own matters, and the writer has been careful to attend to the affairs of the Bedford Light Artillery, and not to meddle with the matters of any other company. However, the author deemed it proper to state a few facts about the organization of one company, which he believes will be appreciated by all its members.

The author has secured a number of letters from persons who took an active and honorable part in the great Civil War. They are to be found in the appendix, and will add greatly to the value and interest of the history.

The writer wishes to state that while collecting facts and information for his history, he was compelled to approach and question persons at times and places most inopportune, and that such was their forbearance and good manners that in no instance, was he treated with any discourtesy. All these persons here spoken of, will please accept his thanks.

The thanks of the author are hereby tendered to M. T. Harrison, his Publisher without whose aid and counsel he could not have succeeded in his enterprise.

The writer also wishes to express here his deep obligations to the following persons for assistance in helping him, to secure valuable information: Charles Aunspaugh, S. G. Anspach, H. C. Lowry, and J. N. Early.

Bedford City, Va., December 1, 1902.

History of the Bedford Light Artillery.

CHAPTER I.

ANNO DOMINI 1861

“Breathes there the man, with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land!”—Sir Walter Scott.

At the commencement of this year, it was the opinion of all well informed persons that there would be war between the Northern and Southern States. Hence volunteer military companies were raised all over the State of Virginia.

According to the custom of the times, any one who wished to, might raise a company

Thus it was that T. C. Jordan, J. O. Hensley, R. B. Claytor and R. T. Aunspaugh, secured the names of a number of persons in Liberty, Bedford County, Va., and its vicinity, who signified their willingness and intention to be organized into a military company.

Pursuant to previous notice, the aforementioned persons met at the Court House, on the night of the 22nd. of January, 1861, for organization by the election of their commissioned officers.

He who raised the company was almost always elected captain; hence Tyler C. Jordan was elected Captain. The lieutenants elected were: W. S. Myler, R. B. Claytor, R. T. Aunspaugh, and J. A. Stover, named according to their order of rank.

Comrades tell to this day, that after a nice speech by the candidate for the place of first lieutenant; W. S. Myler arose and said in substance: “I am a man of deeds and not of words. All I ask is, shew me the enemy; and he is mine.” This speech had such a happy effect that he was elected by a great majority

At the same time and place the company resolved to call itself: The Bedford Light Artillery

On adjourning, the company, by invitation of Wilson C. Hewitt, the Proprietor, partook of a most excellent supper, at the Liberty House

Some little time after this; for good and sufficient reasons, W. S. Myler resigned his office of first lieutenant, and James O. Hensley, was elected to fill the vacancy

During February and March, the company is drilling, and making arrangements to provide itself with a uniform.

On or about the first of April, the company resolves without a dissenting voice to tender its services to the Governor of the State of Virginia, who accepts them at once.

On April 16, the Captain was notified by a telegram to have his Company ready to move at a moment's notice.

On April 17, Virginia passed the Ordinance of Secession, (which was ratified by the people on the fourth Thursday of May) and there was great excitement throughout the State and among all the military companies.

The services of the Company having been accepted; on May 8, it is enrolled for active service for one year by order of the Governor of the State of Virginia; and henceforth on every Muster Roll, this date is given as the time from which it must be paid. And on this same date, May 8, all its officers are commissioned, save J. A. Stover, who is refused a commission, because only three lieutenants are allowed to a company. At the same time, May 8, orders are received by the Captain to leave Liberty, and go in to camp at Lynchburg, which causes considerable excitement in town.

On Sunday, at 11 A. M., May 12, the Bedford Light Artillery, attended Divine Worship at the Presbyterian Church in company with "The Old Dominion Rifles;" a company also raised in Liberty, whose captain was Dr. T. M. Bowyer.

The Minister, Rev. W. W. Berry, who himself was a member of "The Old Dominion Rifles," preached by invitation an exceedingly able and eloquent sermon, prepared especially for the occasion from Joshua, Chapter I and parts of verses 5, 6. — "I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage."

Only the other day, did the writer and this same minister, look over together the manuscript of this same sermon. It was yellow from age. He remarked to me "my predictions of the success of our cause, came far short of fulfilment. I was a poor Prophet." He may have been a poor Prophet; but when he delivered that sermon he was a powerful preacher.

While the members of the Company are getting ready to leave town, let us look around that we may see the condition of things.

Liberty, in May 1861, was a quiet and unpretentious town. The streets were paved with poor material and only for a short distance. Our orators and politicians were James F Johnson, William Burwell, William L. Goggin, and the Hon. John Goode. Our leading merchants were; Alfred Bell, O. P. Bell, S. H. Hoffman and William Graves. The store-houses in which they did business were inconvenient and wooden buildings; without any apparatus for heating them save in the counting-room, into which a very few persons were allowed to come; but they kept a full line of almost every kind of merchandise. There was only one drug store in the place and it did a very small business. There were no soda fountains, nor hardware stores, nor tobacco warehouses.

Those worthy men, Micajah Davis, Col. J. B. Crenshaw and W. T. Campbell, would only manufacture tobacco for a few months in the spring and summer, and in the winter, they would visit the farms and buy the tobacco as it hung in the house at so much a hundred. While for the rest of the time, W. T. Campbell and Col. J. B. Crenshaw, would spend most of it in the counting room of Col. William Graves, who did a large mercantile business at the corner of Main and Bridge streets, where R. B. Claytor built a handsome brick store-house. There was no livery stable in town. Our people owned but few carriages; the citizens walked to their places of business, and no one rode out in the evening for health or pleasure.

Prof. S. L. Dunton taught a female school near the railroad bridge, while Prof. R. D. Redus taught an academy for boys and young men in a building called Piedmont.

Our butcher (and we had only one) would ride out in the morning and buy a small beef, drive it home and

butcher it about nightfall on the lot of Col. Dan. Aunspaugh, when next morning about 4 o'clock all who wanted beef would go there and purchase it, and the market house would be closed up by 6 a. m., to be opened no more until the butcher went again to the country and returned.

We had no water works, no telephone, and no electric lights. When the moon did not shine we took our lanterns. Such was the condition of things when the Bedford Light Artillery left for the war in 1861.

But about a decade ago there was a great change in the customs of our people, hence we are not at all surprised to have to record that the name of Liberty, the county seat of Bedford County, Virginia, was by an act of the Legislature, on March 3d, 1890, changed to Bedford City.

In view of this change of name, it was very fortunate that the Company did not call itself the Liberty Light Artillery; but chose rather to be called the Bedford Light Artillery, a name most appropriate, since military companies are spoken of as coming from their county rather than from the town in which they are recruited, save in the case of large cities, and also because it designates the kind of military service they wished to engage in.

In heavy artillery the guns are stationary; in light artillery the cannon are drawn from place to place by horses. And we may say once for all, that in camp, the light artillery service is very pleasant; but in battle it is exceedingly dangerous.

And we claim for our company that of all the companies sent out by Bedford county in the civil war, *the Bedford Light Artillery was the only one organized with a view to serve as light artillery.*

From a copy of the first muster roll ever prepared and forwarded from the company, we copy as follows: "This company was organized and mustered into service as a light artillery company, and is in every way admirably adapted to that branch of the service, being composed of men of intelligence, youth, energy, and activity; and it is a subject of complaint, on their part, that the authorities have failed to furnish them with the proper arms, or even to furnish any of the side arms or equipments necessary for artillerymen."

MUSTER ROLL

Of the Bedford Light Artillery, as it stood on the day it left Liberty, to engage in the great Civil War:

Tyler C. Jordan, Captain.
 James O. Hensley, First Lieutenant.
 Robert B. Claytor, Second Lieutenant.
 Robert T. Aunspaugh, Third Lieutenant

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS;

Chas. A. Bower, First Sergeant.
 James O. Boley, Second Sergeant.
 Jeremiah E. Satterwhite, Third Sergeant.
 Leslie C. Talbot, Fourth Sergeant.
 John F. Bondurant, First Corporal.
 Joseph P. Stetler, Second Corporal.
 Arthur C. Catlett, Third Corporal
 Charles E. Parker, Fourth Corporal.

PRIVATES

Arthur, James L.	Jordan, William V
Arthur, Milton C.	Jordan, John Y. M.
Boley, Wm. H	Kirkpatrick, P. D.
Bondurant, James D.	Lee, John B.
Bowles, James E.	Lockard, Rufus A.
Bradley, Charles.	Mansfield, William,
Brosius, Josephus F	Mansfield, James L.
Campbell, James W.	Marsh, Thomas E.
Carder, James D.	Marsh, Samuel P
Claytor, David M.	McMillan, G. S.
Coleman, W. C.	Miller, John W
Coleman, John W	Miller, Charles H.
Coleman, S. I.	Scott, John W
Crawford, George W	Scott, James E.
Cunningham, R. S.	Shartzler, William A.
Elliott, James M.	Snead, James L.
Elliott, William E.	Stone, John H.
Fizer, Elliott,	Stover, John A.
Frazier, William E.	Sullivan, John L
Friedrich Edward.	Thompson, Richard S.
Grounds, Oliver P	Thurman, William P.
Harris, William Y	Trent, George W
Hawkins, Benjamin F.	Turner, Samuel H.

Hoffman, William P	Wade, Daniel G.
Hurt, Richard I	White, Robert T
Jarrett, Daniel W	White, Thomas F
Jeter, James N.	Wilkerson, Charles W
Jones, Charles P	Wilkerson, James P

If now we add to this roll the names of these recruits together with the date of their enlistment, McDaniel, Jno. E., May 15, 1861; Anthony, Charles L., June 4, 1861; Austin, B. I., June 4, 1861, Layne, Wm. H., June 21, 1861; we will have the first muster roll of the Company of T. C. Jordan, from May 7, to July 1st, 1861, Station Jamestown Island, date June 30, 1861, and Signed T. C. Jordan.

Let us examine this roll, for we will do well to consider it. T. C. Jordan and James O. Hensley are promising young lawyers; R. B. Claytor and R. T. Aunspaugh are prosperous young merchants. There are yet on the roll C. A. Bower and W. V. Jordan, who are lawyers and members of the Bedford bar. And yet we have on the roll David M. Claytor, John Y. M. Jordan and Wm. P. Thurman, who give promise of becoming excellent physicians.

As for the rest, they belong to almost every vocation known to man, and there are quite a number on the roll so young that they have never chosen a vocation.

Among these men there are quite a number whose parents are poor, and hence :

Knowledge to their eyes her ample page,
Rich with the spoils of time, did ne'er unroll;
Chill penury repressed their noble rage,
And froze the genial current of the soul.

But for all that they will make the best kind of soldiers, as they are men of medium weight, good height and fine health. Some writers have called certain Bedford companies "the flower of Bedford," forgetting as they boasted, that the rose is not the only flower; and that,

"Full many a gem of purest ray serene,
The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear;
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air "

However, we waive all claim to being the "flower of Bedford;" and point with pride to our roll and say, behold the heroes of Yorktown, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and Sailor's Creek.

On Wednesday, May 15, 1861, the Bedford Light Artillery left Bedford City to engage in the civil war.

It was a beautiful day, no clouds above to bring rain, and it was just cool enough to be pleasant. There is a great crowd out to see them off, made much larger because the "Old Dominion Rifles" are going also. The Bedford Light Artillery is formed into line just in front of the office of R. D. Buford, who is one of the best Circuit Court Clerks that ever served in Bedford.

They make a fine appearance in their beautiful uniform, which is made of dark blue material, the coat buttoning straight up in front, fastened at the waist by a belt, with a short skirt below it. The pants and coat are trimmed with red, which is the style for artillery suits, and above all, is a cap to match, mounted with two brass cannon crossed obliquely.

After the manner of the times, many of these uniforms have been given to the Company by liberal and patriotic citizens. At the word of command, they march to the depot followed by fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters. At noon the train moves off for Lynchburg, amid good-byes, the waving of handkerchiefs, and the cheers of the enthusiastic and approving crowd.

Having come a distance of twenty five miles, they arrive at Lynchburg, which is the rendezvous for the companies from the adjoining counties, and after some little delay they march out to Camp Lee, which afterwards became the fair grounds. In the afternoon of the same day, May 15, the Company was mustered into the service of the State of Virginia by Col. Langhorne, for one year. Their informal enlistment on May 8, was recognized; and it was understood that they would receive pay from that time. They were mustered into service by registering their names, by an examination at the hands of a surgeon, and by taking an oath to serve with fidelity the government of the State of Virginia.

After this they pitch their tents, make their supper from

haversacks filled by loving hands now far away, and when the stars come out one by one, lie down to sleep.

The families of the married men of our Company will be supported in various ways; some will live off their estate; some will live with relatives, while many will be supported by the County Court through a committee appointed for that purpose.

The State authorities did their very best to put the Bedford Light Artillery into Infantry; and its officers could only prevent it by agreeing to serve in Heavy Artillery, until they could be used as Light Artillery. Afterwards, however, reflecting on the importance of the position they held, and that their experience as heavy artillerymen would add much to their efficiency as light artillerymen; they were content with their situation until they could enter upon the service of their choice.

The Bedford Light Artillery left Lynchburg May, 21, and travelling over the Southside railroad and the Richmond and Danville railroad, they reach Richmond that day, having traveled a distance of 90 miles; and they spend the night at the Columbia Hotel.

On the same day, the Captain having reported his arrival to Gov Letcher, he receives orders to proceed to Jamestown.

On the next day, about 9 A M., the Company goes aboard the steamboat Curtis Peck, and about three P M. touched the wharf at the West end of the Island, and on May 22, they land at Jamestown Island having come 57 miles.

Having landed safely, they pitch their tents; detail a guard; call the roll; and go to bed.

The first settlers of Virginia sail leisurely up that beautiful stream which they call the James. After a search of seventeen days, for a spot suitable for a settlement, they select a peninsula on the North side of the river; and immediately a colony of 105 men land, on May 13, 1607, and commence to build a town which has ever since been called Jamestown. Hence we have the term the peninsular of Jamestown.

Years afterwards, the tide forced its way across this peninsula and made what is now called Jamestown Is-

land. The stream that flows on the North side of the Island is only fifty feet wide; while on the South side, the James is about two miles in width. It is one and three quarter miles long, and three fourths of a mile wide; while the surface of the ground is partly marshy and partly dry and arable, and it also forms a part of James City County.

In the Spring of 1861, this Island was occupied first by State Troops. They erect Pocahontas Battery at the West end of the Island; Sand Battery about the center of the Island close to the river; and Point of Island Battery at the East end.

These Batteries are manned by these Companies: Allen's, Barton's, Jordan's, Wilkinson's and Rambaut's.

A number of 8 inch Columbiads are mounted in these forts, which came from the Norfolk Navy Yard.

These five Companies are put into a battalion, called the 10th Battalion of Heavy Artillery; and were commanded first by Captain Jordan as Senior Captain and afterwards by Major Wm. Allen.

At one time, on the Island, there was a regiment of infantry under the command of Col. Hill Carter; and at another time, two regiments and two companies of infantry. All these forces were under Gen. J. B. Magruder, who commanded the Department of the Peninsula. However, after March 8, 1862, the forces on the Island came under the control of the Navy Department, and Lt. Catesby Ap R. Jones was chief in command on the Island.

At times, the number of forces on the Island would amount to at least 2,500 men.

Jamestown Island was the right wing of Magruder's line which extended a distance of 19 miles to Yorktown, which was its left wing; along which at proper intervals were constructed rifle pits and earth works.

General Joseph E. Johnson having assumed command of the Department of the Peninsula, on April 17, 1862, and having determined to evacuate Yorktown so long and so bravely held by Magruder; on May 3, 1862 the forces on Jamestown Island evacuate it, and the 10th Battalion of Heavy Artillery, having spiked their guns, proceed to Richmond.

On his arrival, Capt. Jordan reports at once to Col. Patton of the infantry, and is assigned to the Command of the

Forts then under construction; and he at once commenced to fortify the Island by constructing forts and mounting heavy guns.

The construction and completion of these forts, was a matter of great importance; since at that time they were the only defense for Richmond against the gunboats of the enemy, then in the lower James River, a distance of 47 miles.

The first artillery to arrive at the Island was the Bedford Light artillery; and besides it, there were no troops on the Island save a company of Marines, which was already there.

The Jordan Battery was stationed at Fort Pocahontas, the main Fort, near the West end of the Island and about 50 yards from and West of the old Church and Cemetery. They are put in charge of four 8 inch Columbiads. The men never weary of working on the Fort. When a battalion is formed out of the incoming heavy Artillery Companies, they are proud to see their Captain acting Major, and by strict attention to their duties they greatly aid J. O. Hensley, Lt. commanding Company, and are pleased to be known on the muster rolls as Company A.

The men now form themselves into messes and cook for themselves. Each man draws for one day's rations: $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of bacon or beef, some sugar and coffee, some peas, beans or rice, and some salt. Private W. V. Jordan is detailed by the Captain to be Company Commissary.

The duties and occupations of a soldier, while in camp, vary but little: they may be described thus: reveille, roll call, breakfast, guard mounting at the guard house, drill, on detail, writing home, playing games, reading, dress parade, and taps. Occasionally, some of the men go out, and walk about the Church yard, and gaze upon the tombstones and the old Church tower still standing, in which nearly three centuries ago, Rev. Robert Hunt preached the blessed Gospel of the Son of God.

William P. Gibbs was mustered into service, May 26, at Jamestown, and his name was left out by those who made out the first muster-roll. Last of July, Lafayette De Witt came to the Company as a recruit, and was mustered into service. Also about the same time, John R. Thurman

joined the Company, and was duly enlisted. During the Summer, Frederick Anspach, whose bad health did not suffer him to enlist, having a brother and many friends in the Company, paid it a visit bringing with him letters, food, and clothing from relations at home.

Malarial diseases now begin to make their appearance and our three young Physicians, Claytor, Jordan and Thurman, by their knowledge of medicine, render valuable assistance to their suffering comrades.

On the approach of cold weather, the Company strike and put away their tents, and move into a number of small houses built of lumber in California style, with two rooms to each house, which are called by the officials barracks. These barracks prove to be quite comfortable. Their wood is brought to them from a distance, by the Government, and issued to them. Their water is drawn from a well, which was dug by the Company, soon after its arrival upon the Island.

Captain T. C. Jordan having, in December, received his field battery; he at once resigns his command over the battalion, and devotes his time to drilling his men in light artillery. The Company are delighted to get their guns; as it seems certain that they can carry out *their original purpose*, to *fight as light artillery*. The Captain says, "It consisted of four 24 pounder Howitzers; a powerful battery for short range work, but unwieldy in the field."

Thus we close our record of the year 1861; and the future, like a sealed book, lies before us.

CHAPTER II

ANNO DOMINI 1862.

"The brave man is not he who feels no fear,
For that were stupid and irrational;
But he whose noble soul its fear subdues,
And bravely dares the danger nature shrinks from."
—Joanna Bailie.

If we consider the number of expeditions set on foot, the great distance separating them, the number of men engaged in each expedition, and the number of battles fought; the year 1862 will be memorable and conspicuous in the history of the Civil War.

At the commencement of this year, the Confederate Congress has passed a law requiring all men between the ages of 18 and 35 to join the army.

The army is all excited, because all the soldiers who enlisted for one year, must re-enlist for three years of the war. However, the men may retain all their officers; or a part of them; or none. The officers could raise new companies; and even a private, if he pleased, might try to raise a company. Many excellent officers failed to be re-elected simply because they could not do their duty and please every enlisted man. Soldiers, having grievances, real or imaginary, take occasion at the approaching elections, to take their revenge. Nothing ever hurt the army any more than the re-enlistment of the men, and the election of new officers.

Under the rules for the reorganization of the army, Lts. J. O. Hensley, R. B. Claytor and R. T. Aunspaugh, for good and sufficient reasons, withdrew from the Company. The following men also withdrew: Sergeant Leslie C. Talbot, Charles L. Anthony, David M. Claytor, Lafayette DeWitt and John B. Lee.

The officers and men who have withdrawn from the Bedford Light Artillery, determine to raise a new company. This is easily done with the men on hand, with recruits from the North of Bedford and from Campbell County. On the 10th of March, these men enlisted and,

elected the following officers: Captain, James O. Hensley First Lt., D. Reid Arnold, Second Lt., Robert B. Claytor, Third Lt. Robert T Aunspaugh. This Company took the place of the Tyler Jordan Battery on the Island, and when it went to Richmond, it became Co. B., 10th Virginia Battalion, Heavy Artillery, and was stationed for a long time at Chaffin's Farm.

These three men, who withdrew from our Company, were most excellent men, who have been successful in civil as well as military affairs, and our loss at their departure, was never fully repaired. James O. Hensley became Major, and R. B. Claytor was Captain of his Company for so long a time that the Company is known as Claytor's Company. Lt. R. T Aunspaugh was detailed as quartermaster, and discharged his duties with great efficiency.

The customs of the times and the abundance of excellent men in our Company, are well set forth by the fact that W V Jordan, a lawyer and a private in the ranks, having obtained permission, came home to Bedford County, and recruited and took to the field a company of heavy artillery

Bedford County, Va., had in the field, during the Civil War, the artillery companies of Captains: A. Jordan, L. A. Sale, W V Jordan, R. B. Claytor, T M. Bowyer and T C. Jordan.

Pursuant to previous notice, the Bedford Light Artillery assembled on the 22nd of January, and enlisted for three years. At the same time and place; the following persons were elected to be commissioned officers:

Tyler C. Jordan, Captain.

Charles A. Bowyer, 1st Lieutenant.

James O. Boley, 2nd Lieutenant.

John R. Thurman, 3rd Lieutenant.

This was the usual mode of electing an officer in the army. On a given day, the men are ordered to fall in, in the presence of an officer. Then the orderly sergeant call the roll, and each man as his name is called announces the name of the man of his choice. A teller, previously appointed, hands in his account to the officer, and he announces the result of the election.

The date of the commission of each officer elected at the

re-organization of the Company, corresponds with the date of his election.

The Captain appointed the following non-commissioned officers:

R. S. Cunningham, Orderly Sergeant.
 W P Hoffman, Quarter-master Sergeant.
 J C. Reed, First Sergeant.
 R. S. Thompson, Second Sergeant.
 J. P. Stetler, Third Sergeant.
 J. H. Stone, Fourth Sergeant.
 J F Bondurant, First Corporal.
 J E. Scott, Second Corporal.
 J. L. Sullivan, Third Corporal.
 C. E. Parker, Fourth Corporal.

Early in the spring of this year, there was every indication that Gen. George B. McClellan would land at Fortress Monroe, and attempt to march to Richmond by way of the Peninsula. Hence then, the line of breastworks which Magruder had erected between Jamestown Island and Yorktown, became an object of interest and a sure means of defense.

There is a prevailing impression that we will soon leave the Island. The men begin to arrange their affairs so as to be able to leave at a moments notice. Orders having come, they prepare to march. On the 15th of April, they leave Jamestown Island. They cross the bridge, pass through James City County; and arrive on the lines near Winn's Mill.

I am glad to be able to lay before the reader an account of what took place after the Battery reached Winn's Mill in the words of Major T C. Jordan:

"A few days after the landing of McClellan's army at Fortress Monroe, I received an order from Gen. Magruder to proceed at once to Yorktown. This was dated the 12th of April. I met Gen. Magruder near Williamsburg, and was directed by him to a point about the center of his line, 'Dam No. 1,' there to occupy what he termed '*the place of Honor.*' An aide accompanied me, and pointed out the location. It was a small earthwork, built to protect the Dam from being cut by the enemy, and located about 200 yards in advance of the breastworks of the main line. The lines

were very imperfect, easily enfiladed on both flanks, and in case of a heavy attack, we would be in as much danger from our own men, as from the enemy. At the time I occupied this little earthwork, dignified by the name of "Demi-lune." I was supported by about four companies of infantry in rifle pits, on our right. Two guns were placed in the little works, one in rear in the breastwork, and one on the right about 400 yards distant. In front was an open field. At this time, there were no other infantry supports near us. The enemy was now coming up rapidly; (April 16th) and during the day and that night, threw up strong works in our front. The next day (April 17th) we were heavily attacked by four batteries of the enemy, and a full regiment of infantry deployed as sharpshooters supported by a large force of infantry."

The Prince DeJoinville, writing from McClellan's Headquarters, thus describes this point of our lines, and the attack on it then made:

"The next step was to search the Confederate line of defense for weak points. It was believed to be at the center of the line on Warrick River, between Lee's and Winn's Mills. Here the Federal forces had throw up a considerable work with wings for riflemen in which guns were mounted. Directly opposite the enemy, was a protected Demilune with two embrasures, and with long infantry epaulments extending from each wing. An open field, some six or seven hundred yards in width, intervened. On April 17th, four Federal batteries opened furiously upon the opposite works, and infantry pushed forward to capture the enemy's work. These brave men rushed forward firmly under a scathing fire, and were struggling through the creek, when the enemy opened upon them, in superior force, a galling fire. They still went forward unflinching and their ranks were repeatedly thinning, when they were recalled. The casualties exceeded one hundred and fifty, and the attempt to force through the enemy's lines was then abandoned, he having presented unforeseen difficulties."

Johnston's army was then arriving, and during this attack, Simm's brigade of his army reached our lines; but not in time to take part in the fight.

At this place, Dr. J. Y. M. Jordan, brother of the Cap-

tain, and Corporal J L. Sullivan, were killed. Our men were much grieved at the loss of these two comrades, but consoled themselves remembering these beautiful lines:

"The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
Await alike the inevitable hour;
The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

The Company remained in this "*place of Honor*" until about May 3, when the army retired to Richmond.

Magruder with less than 10,000 men, had bluffed and held in check for weeks the enemy's grand army of more than 100,000 men.

We had now received our "Baptism of fire," and not one had failed to stand firm; the "Place of Honor" had been firmly held.

Major Jordan gives this account of the movements of his Battery: "On coming out of the position at Dam No. 1, Gen. Magruder warmly thanked the Company for its services; and directed me to proceed at once to Williamsburg and there wait for orders."

"In this hurried interview, he also spoke feelingly of the death of my brother, Dr. Jordan, of which he had just then heard."

Having reached Williamsburg, the Company is ordered to Richmond. At Richmond the Battery was placed in position, at Meadow Bridge, and there assisted in repelling a large force of the enemy.

At 3 o'clock on the 26th of June, A. P. Hill crossed the Chickahominy River on the Meadow Bridge, and commenced the Seven Days Fight, with a great victory at Mechanicsville; therefore the name of the Jordan Battery will be forever linked to the names of Meadow Bridge and Mechanicsville.

The Battery then moved from Meadow Bridge to Mechanicsville Crossing; and from that place, it moved to the right of the line facing Bottom Bridge.

Major Jordan gives this further account of what the Bedford Light Artillery did during "The Seven Days Battles:" "McClellan was now retreating, and making his famous change of base. We moved with Magruder's division in the pursuit; and *charged with the infantry*. We came up

with the enemy at Savage's Station; shelled his retreating forces, and occupied one of his works abandoned only a few moments before, and shelled the woods through which he was fleeing. From here we moved with Huger's division in the direction of Malvern Hill. This division took the wrong road, and lost valuable time. We arrived at Malvern Hill, on the 2nd of July just as the enemy was leaving.

In a few days, the Battery having received orders to that effect, return to Richmond, and go into camp. Here they enjoy needed rest; and the alarms of war do not disturb them. However they are supplied with horses, the running gear of the Battery is overhauled, the harness is mended, and everything necessary for good work, is supplied.

Up to this time, the Company did not belong to a battalion nor was it attached to any command, but went where its services were most needed; sometimes with Magruder and sometimes with Huger. But about this time, it is put into a battalion with the companies of Parker, Woolfolk, and Eubank. Delaware Kemper is assigned to its command with the rank of Major. The battalion so formed is known as "Kemper's Battalion, Reserve Artillery," Army Northern Virginia. In this, "Battalion Reserve Artillery," the Bedford Light Artillery was ever afterwards designated, Battery A. By the term Reserve Artillery was meant, that it was unattached to any division, but held in readiness to be rapidly moved from any part of the battle line, at any moment, by companies or as a whole, to any point most heavily attacked or threatened; and not, as might be supposed, held in the rear to be used if needed.

Sometime after the events, which have been mentioned, and before the 30th day of August, Rhett's battery was added to our battalion, and Col. S. D. Lee was assigned to its command.

After the retreat of Gen. McClellan; Gen. Robert Edward Lee, who on June 1, had been assigned to the command of all the Confederate troops in Virginia, determined to attack Gen. John Pope, who had been appointed to the command of the Army of Virginia, now not far from Washington City, before McClellan come to his aid.

Hence the Army of Northern Virginia is put in motion to attack Gen. Pope.

On August 3, we leave our camp at Bloody Run in the vicinity of Richmond, and commence our march, having passed through Ashland, Louisa C. H., Gordonsville, Orange C. H. and Culpeper C. H., we approach Rappahannock bridge. At this place, we came up with Pope's army in full retreat; we shelled his rear guard, and drove it across the river.

We then moved by the left flank to Thoroughfare Gap, passed through it on the night of the 29th of August; joined Jackson with Longstreet's corps, and reached the battle field, 2 A. M. of Saturday, August 30th. Col. S. D. Lee selected for the battalion a splendid position, on a commanding eminence, running North and South, to the left of the road overlooking the old battle ground, and at a point just between the positions of Jackson and Longstreet.

When the location of the battalion was reported to Gen. Lee, he sent word; "you are just where I wanted you; stay there." "Here we had a grand view of the plains of Manassas. The sun had now risen in unclouded splendor. Before us the land broke beautifully into hill and dale forming a sort of amphitheatre."

On our left, was Jackson at the now famous Railroad cut, while on our right was Longstreet with all his men, drawn up in line of battle, in rear of the ridge on which we are posted.

Save some cannonading between us and the enemy, the early morning gave no indication of the great engagement so close at hand. At high noon, some little skirmishing and cannonading was still in progress, and almost every officer in the battalion thought the enemy was about to retire.

However, about 4 o'clock, heavy masses of the enemy are seen moving to our left with the intention of breaking Jackson's line, at the Railroad cut, and capturing our batteries by a flank movement. They are so intent on attacking Jackson, that they pay but little attention to that part of the line on Jackson's right.

Col. S. D. Lee takes in the situation at a glance, and

orders a part of the battalion, including one gun, a howitzer, of the Jordan Battery, to the threatened point, and changing front, arranges his guns so as to be able to pour a withering enfilade fire into their ranks. Therefore when Jackson was attacked by this heavy force of the enemy, the attack was met by such a storm of shell and canister, in front and flank, that the enemy broke and fled in confusion. On every side, the federal lines give way, our men charge and pursue them, until they are safe within their fortifications around Washington.

Many competent and distinguished critics, have made the effective services of Col. S. D. Lee's Battalion of Artillery, at the second battle of Manassas, a subject of eulogy. Thus Gen. Lee said of the Battalion that, "under its well directed fire the enemy's lines were broken and fell back in confusion." President Davis said of Col. Lee: "I have reason to believe that at the last great conflict on the field of Manassas, he served to turn the tide of battle, and consummate the victory."

In this the Second Manassas Campaign, Gen. Pope had an army of 70,000, while the force of Gen. Lee barely amounted to 50,000 men.

Captain T. C. Jordan, with other officers of the Battalion was mentioned by Col. Lee in his official report, "for good conduct" in this engagement.

At this battle, two of the companies of the battalion were firing for the first time, hence the Jordan Battery, on going into the fight of Second Manassas, having come from Yorktown, Meadow Bridge and Savage's Station, where they had done their whole duty, might feel entitled to be called a veteran Battery.

After the battle of Second Manassas, and before the battle of Antietam, the battery of Captain Moody was added to the battalion of Col. S. D. Lee.

Here is an account of the battalion after the Moody battery was added to it, and these six companies remained together until the close of the war, forming one battalion whose name varied with the name of its Commander:

Company A, Captain Jordan, Va.

" B, " Moody, La.

" C, " Woolfork, Va.

Company D, Captain Parker, Va.
" E, " Eubank, Va.
" F, " Rhett, S. C.

Gen. R. E. Lee having determined to carry the war into Maryland, we march on, and go into camp at Leesburg. Then we cross the upper Potomac near that place, having also crossed the Monocacy, with the rest of Lee's army, on Sept. 7, we are at Frederick, Md. On Saturday, the 13th, we encamp at Funkstown, and remained there till 4 o'clock P. M. of the next day.

At that time and place, we receive orders to counter march towards Frederick City.

Our horses having been kept harnessed, at 3 o'clock A. M., Monday the 15th, we went by a private road towards the Potomac. At day break, we met Longstreet's corps coming into the main road that leads to Sharpsburg, and we moved on with it. About 11 o'clock A. M. we reached Garysville, where we halted an hour, and then moved to Sharpsburg a few miles further on. Here we were posted on the hills South of the village. Night came on, and we lay down by our pieces.

On Tuesday, Sept. 16, we expect an attack every moment; but the day is spent in preparing for the morrow; and about night the picket firing and shelling of the enemy, annoy us greatly. Again we lay down by our guns, knowing assuredly that the next day will bring on a great battle.

On the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 17, at three o'clock every man is up and at his post waiting for the light of day.

At day light, picket firing commenced, and at sunrise the artillery and infantry began their deadly work. Thus the battle raged all day long; charges are made and received. A federal eight gun battery, on our right, and beyond the range of our guns, enfiladed us, and did us great damage. By 9 o'clock A. M. Parker's Battery had lost twenty-one men, killed and wounded, and was ordered off the field.

Our Battery remained on the field all day, and sustained the loss of R. T. Oney and Serg. J. C. Reed, wounded and J. E. Scott killed.

In this engagement, the forces of Gen. McClellan

amounted to 87,000 men, while Gen. Lee had only 35,000.

Comrades love to relate this incident: In this battle, Serg. Stone lost his haversack. On being asked why he risked his life looking for it, amid minnie balls and bursting shells, he replied: "I had as well be killed, as to have nothing to eat"

Gen. Lee remained in line of battle during the 18th, expecting and hoping that McClellan would renew the battle, but he failing to do so, Gen. Lee determined to return to Virginia. Hence the Jordan Battery, along with the army, fell back, and the Battery having crossed the Potomac, under the eye of Lee at Shepherdstown, on the night of the 18th, went into camp near Winchester.

At this place, and about the first of October, Lieutenants C. A. Bower and J. O. Boley, for good and sufficient reasons unto themselves, but to the great regret of their comrades, resigned their commissions. Whereupon Third Lieutenant J. R. Thurman became first lieutenant.

While here in October, but after the occurrence of the events we have just mentioned, the company of Capt. Page having been disorganized, about forty five men from that company were transferred to the Jordan Battery; and they proved to be a splendid lot of well drilled men.

Along with this detachment came Lieutenant John Donnell Smith, of Baltimore, who on being transferred to the Company of Tyler Jordan, ranked First Lieutenant J. R. Thurman, since he held a commission of six months priority. Hence at this time, Smith was Senior First Lieutenant, and Thurman Junior First Lieutenant of the Company.

Col. S. D. Lee, on Nov. 6, 1862, was commissioned a Brigadier-General, and ceased to command the Battalion. On Nov 8, 1862, Lieutenant Col. E. P. Alexander, was commissioned to be Colonel, and on the same day succeeded Clo. Lee in command of the Battalion.

About this time, we receive orders to leave Winchester. We cross the Shenandoah; and pass over the Blue Ridge, and encamp in November near Culpeper C. H.

While here, one day about dark, we receive orders to march. All night we march on. Next day about noon, we cross the Rapidan River at Raccoon Ford. The men are made to wade through the cold water. Through rain and

mud the march is very unpleasant. Everything indicates that we are marching in the direction of Fredericksburg, and we are approaching it rapidly.

We reach the vicinity of Fredericksburg, about November 27, and go into camp near Falmouth. We rested until December 7, and then took a position in rear of Marye's Hill. On this hill, the Washington Artillery of New Orleans, under Col. Walton had already been posted. As Company A. is reserve artillery, it is kept off the line to be ordered to the hottest place.

On the 13th of December the battle of Fredericksburg took place. It raged fiercest at Hamilton's Crossing and Marye's Hill near the city. Batteries belted this height tier upon tier guarding the approaches to Fredericksburg. There is also a stone wall below these batteries. Col. Alexander said: "We will comb it as with a fine tooth comb."

From morning till night the Federal troops charged Marye's Hill. Under such leaders as Generals French, Hancock and Hooker., the Union troops made charges against this point as brave, as daring, as reckless and as hopeless as any ever recorded on the page of history. On the ground where these charges were made, there were a thousand killed and wounded to every acre.

During the day, a portion of Walton's artillery being ordered off the line, the Bedford Light Artillery was ordered to take its place. We went over the hill, at a full gallop, under a heavy fire, into the earthworks, and remained there until the battle was over.

Gen. Lee brought to this battlefield 78,000 men, while his opponent, Gen. A. E. Burnside, had a force of 113,000 men under his command. Burnside lost men to the number of 12,653, while his adversary sustained a loss of 5,322 killed and wounded. In this engagement, James A. Logwood gave up his noble life in the defence of his country.

On leaving the lines, we remained in the vicinity for several days, and then went into winter quarters at Mount Carmel Church, in Caroline County, about fifteen miles in the rear of the army.

This church was a plain brick building, situated in a country flat and sandy, but producing in abundance cedar and pine trees.

Concerning the rations for this year, we may make this statement: while lacking greatly in a variety of good wholesome food, they were sufficient, but not abundant. There was no effort made to provide sugar and coffee for the soldiers, if they were on hand, they would be issued in small quantities; but if not on hand, the soldiers went without them.

CHAPTER III.

ANNO DOMINI 1863.

“On Fame’s eternal camping ground,
Their silent tents are spread,
And Glory guards with solemn round,
The bivouac of the dead.” —Theodore O’Hara.

The New Year comes, and we are still in camp at Carmel Church. We say to all, a happy new year! Comrades have made themselves quite comfortable, having constructed cabins of logs or slabs. They enjoy their well earned rest. They soon become tired of camp life, and long for home and friends and furloughs. Many of them have not been home since they enlisted. They would like so much to settle the matter in one big battle, and then go home, they often say after battle camp life.

During this year, in the Army of Northern Virginia, there was a wide spread interest in the subject of religion, and many of the soldiers of Lee professed faith in Christ and enlisted under the banner of the Cross. The members of the Jordan battery were men of high moral character but not religious. Among the men of the Battery no hymns were sung and no prayer meetings were commenced and continued. They believed the prayers of their relatives and friends at home availed for them, and to these they attribute their escape from the dangers of battle. An exemplary minister of the gospel on a visit to their camp offered to preach for a given amount; they declined the offer, not wishing to make merchandise of the gospel. However, four of the best soldiers in the Company were sons of two ministers, and after the war two of its members became ministers of the gospel.

We remained at Camp Carmel until about the 28th of April. Then we receive orders to leave. After marching on a few miles it is clear to all that we are going North in the direction of the county of Spottsylvania, in which, before this, one great battle has been fought. On April 30th we are near the battlefield and are waiting to be assigned to a place on the line, the infantry having already been put in position. Lee being aware how far the enemy surpassed him in numbers, determined to use strategy. So he resolves to attract and to hold the attention of his enemy in front: while Jackson with 30,000 men goes secretly, to attack Hooker's right and rear.

The Jordan Battery remained with those troops, whose duty it was, to remain in Hooker's front. They were to draw the attention of Hooker to themselves; but not to bring on an engagement. Gen. Lee did not wish to fight until Jackson had reached his destination, and he remained with the 14,000 men in front, and for a part of the time with the Bedford Light Artillery. This battle lasted four days. On the first day of May, the lines of battle are drawn up, and they watch each other, with some little fighting. On May 2, at 4 o'clock P. M. Jackson is about ready to make an attack on Hooker's right and rear. In the evening of this day, Jackson was wounded. In the morning of May 3rd, the Confederates having renewed the fight, Hooker's forces are attacked and driven off the field; and the two wings of Lee's army are re-united. On May 4th, Gen. Lee turns his attention to Sedgwick.

Having this brief outline of Lee's operations at Chancellorsville, the reader is prepared to read and understand the subjoined account of the part the Jordan Battery took in this engagement, furnished by Major Jordan, at the request of the author

"At Salem Church, on the first of May, my company, Battery A, was detached, and ordered to report to Major General McLaws, and by him I was directed to proceed with Mahone's brigade in the direction of Chancellorsville.

I rode with Gen. Mahone to the position I was to occupy. This was at a point on the "Pike" road, where it enters a large open field, surrounding Chancellorsville House, then Hooker's head-quarters. Our infantry was drawn up in line of battle on the right and left of this Pike. My orders

were: Do nothing that will bring on a fight, and act strictly on the defensive.

Soon the enemy's lines were seen, advancing from the opposite ridge; it was a beautiful sight; and I could not resist the temptation to fire into their ranks as they came down the hill. I could plainly see the effect of the exploding shells, and the confusion they occasioned. *These were the first guns fired in this grand battle.* After gaining the cover of the hill, they did not advance; but sent a cloud of sharp-shooters over the hill. They were followed immediately by a battery which took a position in rear of a farm house not more than 500 yards in our front. We opened on this battery at once, but at the first fire, I discovered that the house was inhabited. A woman and some children were running around it, in great fright. Riding back to Gen. Mahone, I asked permission to withdraw, and to occupy a position to the right and in advance of our lines where I could enfilade this battery and also the lines of the enemy as they advanced over the hill. I received permission to do so, and, with one section of the battery, occupied it at a gallop. The other section was too badly disabled to follow, having lost many horses from the fire of the sharpshooters.

In going into this position, the enemy discovered its object, and directed to us, a terrible, raking fire and then retired in great haste. His loss, I think, must have been heavy. For the work of the Company here, I was expressly thanked, by Generals Mahone and McLaws, and mentioned in reports.

We were pretty badly cut up, and that night ordered back to refit, and report directly to Gen. Lee. This order was from Col. Alexander, who now commanded the Battalion, and was delivered by Lieutenant F. M. Colston, our genial and gallant ordnance officer. It was as follows: "At the request of Gen. Lee, you will report to him with your battery until further orders."

Having refitted during the night, I reported the next morning, May 2, to Gen. Lee, and was again thanked for the service of the day before. In the first place, I had expected censure for firing against orders; I felt that the Company had done nothing more than its duty, and could not then, and do not now know why these compliments

were so freely given. The army was then divided, and it must have been a time of great anxiety with Gen. Lee, until he heard Jackson's guns at the enemy's rear. And it may be that we did more than we were disposed to claim, in checking the advance of the enemy I had never sought promotion, but my commission as Major, dates from this battle. By whom recommended, I have never known.

I was now under Gen. Lee in person, and was at once directed by him to go into battery on the Mine Run Road, near an old mill. Here we remained all night, expecting to be attacked at any moment. The two wings of the army had not then connected and we were in the gap. This was however, effected during the night.

On the next morning, May 3, Gen. Lee rode up, and directed me to move on to the left, on the Mine Run Road. He remained with us until about three o'clock in the afternoon, frequently selecting positions from which we shelled the enemy.

We had now joined Jackson's corps and the last charge on the enemy's works was about to be made. We joined in it at a full trot, gained his works, and turned our guns on the Chancellorsville House; then the headquarters of Gen. Hooker, and soon set it on fire. The battle was now over but we took a new position, and shelled the retreating enemy that night and all of next day.

The Company had taken a large part in this battle and on account of its being most of the time under Gen. Lee in person, I have gone so largely into details."

In this battle, Gen. Lee with 53,303 men, won a signal victory over Gen. Joseph Hooker and his force of 138,378 soldiers. Our battery sustained the loss of Mill Irons, Jas. N. Jeter and S. P. Marsh, killed, and Milton H. Sweeney wounded. From our last position on this battlefield, we re-joined the battalion, and went into camp near Fredericksburg.

Gen. Lee. with the consent of the Confederate Government, resolves to march into the Northern States. Hence, in June, we receive orders to march with the First Corps, whose Commander is Lt. Gen. James Longstreet. We make long and rapid marches. On approaching the Blue Ridge, the mountain men from Bedford, miss the Peaks of Otter, and long to quench their thirst at the Big Spring.

Then we cross the Blue Ridge, the Shenandoah River, and encamp near the pleasant village of Millwood, in Clarke County

From this place, marching North East across the Potomac River and the State of Maryland, and into the State of Pennsylvania, we reach the battlefield of Gettysburg, in the afternoon of Thursday, the 2nd of July; and take a position on Seminary Ridge about opposite the since famous Round Top Mountain.

Here is an account of what the Battery did, in the words of Major Jordan: "The Company went into the battle, at the 'Peach Orchard,' at 'double quick,' with a brigade of infantry, commanded by Gen. Barksdale, of Mississippi. He was killed near me in the charge. We drove the enemy back with great loss.

Capt. J. D. Smith, in a letter in the History of Parker's Battery, thus describes the movements of the battalion and Company, at the Peach Orchard on July 2nd: "But grandest of all artillery manœuvres was that of the battalion, with a front of over four hundred yards, sweeping at a gallop down the long slope at Gettysburg, every man of the six hundred yelling like a madman. Dearing, whose command was not up, was riding about looking for a job, and saw us coming from afar. With energy of speech and gesture, he ordered a long line of prisoners, crouched along a fence, to pull it down. It seemed in an instant to be picked up and laid flat, and there was no check to the rush. The line spread out to the right and left in search of positions, and halted as they were found. These were chiefly in a peach orchard. In the smoke we were soon lost to each others view, and each section fought according to its own lights, which were none of the best."

In "Pickett and his Men," the author says: "Alexander's guns poured destruction upon the 'bloody angle,' moving forward in the desperate charge led by Barksdale against that fatal salient."

The battle closed with the approach of night, and with dead and wounded men near at hand, the men lay down to rest. Did they think of loved ones far away, and of that beautiful day in May when they left home for the war? We are about to give an account of the part the Bedford Light Artillery took in the great engagement at

Gettysburg, on the third day, which was July 3rd.

On the morning of July 3rd, the Northern army under Gen. George G. Meade is posted on Cemetery Ridge, while the Southern army under Lee is on Seminary Ridge. The distance between these ridges is about 1400 yards. Lee can go backward, or forward or around. He determines to go forward.

Gen. Pickett, who reached the battlefield in the afternoon of the second day's battle, is selected to lead a charge with his division. Preparatory to this charge, the point of attack must be shelled by the Artillery. This will be done by one hundred and twenty cannon stretched a mile along the crests of Oak Ridge and Seminary Ridge. Col. E. P. Alexander of our battalion, is in command of this Artillery, and Gen Longstreet has put on him the responsibility of notifying Pickett, when to commence the charge. The cannonade commencing at one o'clock lasted until three. Half an hour afterwards, Pickett began the charge on Cemetery Ridge. Jones in his History says:

"This charge, for heroic daring, splendid dash and stern endurance, has few equals, and no superior in history. For 1300 or 1400 yards, nearly every foot under a concentrated and converging fire of artillery, these heroes in gray marched with steady lines to attack an army of nearly 100,000 men, in a strong position, heavily fortified.

Pickett's Virginians captured the outer works and turned the guns on the enemy; the other brave troops did their duty, but they were not supported; the rest of the army looked on, admired and wondered, and the Confederates were driven back by the overwhelming numbers concentrated against them."

Now then, on the 3d of July Company A. having four three-inch rifle guns, did its whole duty in preparing the way for this famous charge, and the name of the Jordan Battery will be forever connected with it. In fact, this charge of Pickett was largely a matter of Longstreet's Corps; since Pickett, Alexander and Longstreet all belonged to it.

When Pickett charged at Gettysburg,

Dread war had never known such need
Of some o'er mastering, valiant deed;

And never yet had cause so large
Hung on the fate of one brief charge.
To break the center, but a chance;
With Pickett waiting to advance;
It seemed a crime to bid him go,
And Longstreet said not "yes" nor "no;"
But silently he bowed his head.
"I shall go forward!" Pickett said,

Then Pickett charged at Gettysburg.

At Gettysburg Lee had a force of 60,000; while the army of Meade amounted to 105,000 men. Lee sustained a loss of 20,451, killed wounded and missing while Meade's entire loss was 23,003. Battery A lost in this engagement one man killed and two wounded. With Lee's army, the Battery remained in line of battle all next day, and that night moved back to the Potomac.

Here Lee remained for several days because the river was impassable; at Williamsport he offered Meade battle; and on the night of the 13th Lee crossed the River on a pontoon bridge at Falling Waters, with his army; and Company A crossed at the same time just in advance of the rear guard; and marched to Orange C. H., and went into camp.

After the battle of Gettysburg, Longstreet requested permission from the Secretary of War, to take his Corps to Tennessee, to reinforce General Braxton Bragg.

His request was granted, but he was only allowed to take with him the divisions of Hood and McLaws and Alexander's battalion of artillery.

The Jordan Battery, having been at Orange C. H. about one month, receives orders to go with Longstreet's army to Tennessee.

Hence, early in September, the Battery commences to march forward. It passes through Louisa C. H. and Richmond, and arrives at Petersburg. At Petersburg, the Battery is put on the cars, and goes to Weldon. They are delayed here one day for lack of transportation; and a member of the Battery, whose name comrades cannot recall was crushed beneath a moving train. At this place, some one stole Sergeant Hoffman's horse, but he got him again.

From Weldon, the train bears us rapidly to Sumter, S. C. At this place, the people fed the whole battalion,

at one long table. This is the place where Corporal Bondurant saw more sweet potatoes, than he had ever seen before in all the days of his life. They fed him sweet potatoes, put them in his haversack, and handed them to him on the train.

Comrades now notice cotton growing in the fields, the sparse population, the great number of log houses, the number of houses one story high, the long moss on the trees, and that almost every one had a mule.

Next we came to Aiken, of the same State, where the ladies shower flowers upon us from a bridge. At Augusta and Atlanta, we received marked attention, and everywhere on the route, the people were anxious to see the men and guns just from the battlefield of Gettysburg. From Atlanta, we moved on to Dalton. Comrades say that all these places are much smaller than they had supposed them to be.

Dalton is not far from the Tennessee line, and was the base of supplies for Bragg's army. Here we leave the cars and set out to join the army of Gen. Bragg. We arrived too late to take part in the battle of Chickamauga Creek, which took place September the 19th, but the Battery took part in the pursuit of the army of Gen. Rosecrans, who on the night of September 20th, began to retreat to Chattanooga. Gen. Rosecrans now enters the city, and Gen. Bragg surrounds it with his troops.

This account, by Major Jordan, will shew what part his Company took in the siege of Chattanooga: "My Company was posted on Lookout Mountain near the Craven House, and shelled the enemy's camp and pontoon bridges. We then moved to the top of the mountain, and shelled Moccasin Ridge, and drove off the enemy, then attempting to build a fort."

Gen. Bragg, feeling assured that he would be able to take Chattanooga, detaches the command of Longstreet, and sends it against Knoxville, where Gen. Burnside commands the Federal forces.

Hence on or about November 10th, Battery A, along with the battalion, commences to march to Knoxville.

The Company proceeds by rail to Sweetwater, a village on the East Tennessee and Georgia railroad. At Loudon, we cross the Tennessee and are on its North side. We now

meet with a small force of Federal troops, whose aim is to retard our advance. Gen. Longstreet aims to bring on an engagement, and hence there is a battle at Campbell's Station with the troops of Burnside.

This battle commenced at two o'clock, November 16th, and raged till night. The Company was ordered forward with the infantry, and occupied a position, on the left of our line at a farm house. The Company did splendid work. There were some women and children in the way, but Captain Jordan managed to give them an opportunity to get out of danger. Night came on, and the enemy, a part of Burnside's command, retreated towards Knoxville.

Next day, November 17th, we overtook the enemy as he was entering Knoxville; and occupied the position assigned to us. Longstreet now besieges Knoxville, which is situated on the North side of the Tennessee, below the junction of the Holston and French Broad Rivers, and at the West end of a beautiful and fertile valley, bounded on the North by the Cumberland and on the South by the Great Smoky Mountains.

Company A occupied positions, at a number of places on the lines of Longstreet, around the city. On the morning of November 29th, having been sent across the River to the top of a mountain, the Battery shelled Fort Saunders preparatory to a charge by the infantry. This charge was a failure, and the Confederates buried their dead under a flag of truce.

Grant having raised the siege of Chattanooga, orders Sherman to march at once to the relief of Burnside. Hence Longstreet fearful of being overcome by a superior force, on December 4th, evacuates his lines, and marches Eastward through the valley of East Tennessee, in the direction of Virginia.

Longstreet carried to Knoxville 5,000 of his own men, to which there were added 10,000 more troops of the infantry and Wheeler's cavalry. Hence he is now retreating with about 15,000 men.

He is pursued by a part of Sherman's troops under the command of Gen. Foster. Foster's troops out-number the forces of Gen. Longstreet.

On the 14th of December, these forces met, and there resulted the battle of Bean's Station. In this fight, Par-

ker's battery and the Jordan Battery, were the only batteries of our battalion in the engagement. One present, describes it thus: "our Company occupied an open field near a large brick house which was held by the enemy. We shelled them out in good style, and assisted in driving them from the field. The Battery did not sustain any loss."

Of this fight, the historian of Parker's battery says: "On the 14th of December we encountered the enemy near Bean's Station, and a spirited engagement ensued. Only two batteries of our battalion were engaged." Our forces here captured a large lot of sugar and coffee. These were distributed to the men as a part of their rations.

After this fight, the enemy did not molest us. But Longstreet did not consider himself safe, until his wagon train got to the Southside of the Holston. Our battery crossed this stream December 16th. and was used along with a brigade of infantry to guard the wagon train. After some little delay near Morristown, we went into winter quarters near Russellville, Tennessee; before the close of the year 1863.

Gen. Longstreet went to Knoxville by the express orders of President Davis, he was forced to leave to avoid capture; but although he was not in the habit of retreating, he made the retreat from Knoxville to Russellville, a distance of sixty miles, in the presence of an enemy flushed with victory, without the loss of men or guns, marching along leisurely, collecting food for his army as he went along, occupying many positions and hoping the enemy would come up. Captain Smith writes: "Longstreet was credited with making a skilful retreat, and was never seriously embarrassed by the pursuing forces."

When Longstreet left Knoxville, being cut off from his base of supplies in Northern Georgia, there was great suffering among the troops for clothing. The Jordan Battery suffered along with the army. Especially was there a lack of shoes. I have read a letter, in which comrade Thomas W Reed is spoken of as walking about the camp at Russellville with his feet tied up in rags. He resides to day at Antelope, Kansas. Every one has heard of the sufferings of Washington's army at Valley Forge. Those

great sufferers, had cabins a part of the winter; but our men spent the whole winter in tents.

The men of the Jordan Battery have long since worn out their beautiful uniform. They are now dressed after this manner: Jacket, pants, shirt, drawers, socks of cotton, any kind of shoes, and a hat made of stout cloth, whose brim would be quilted to make it stiff, and some would be fortunate enough to possess an overcoat.

I cannot better illustrate the scarcity of provisions in the Confederate Army in 1863, than by quoting some extracts from the History of Parker's Battery. On page 98: "A mess eats up seven days rations in two days." On page 166: "It is discovered that lobelia is mixed with seven days rations of flour. But flour is so scarce that none can be put in its place, hence they do the best they can until the next time to draw rations." On page 176: "On the march from Knoxville, they draw three days half rations." The historian says: "I wondered if I would ever again get enough bread to eat." And thus they were verging on to the starvation times of 1864.

Captain J. D. Smith thus writes: "I do not think our rations were much reduced until we got back to Virginia in the Spring of 1864. I can recall my feeling myself to be only half fed from that time. During our long stay in front of Bermuda Hundreds, from June 1864, to April 1865, our food was extremely simple, and as it had to pass through the hands of our mess-servants, it came to us rather short; and there was no chance of supplementing it by buying or begging from farmers.

It was amusing to listen to the sergeants of gun detachments allotting to each man his portion of the rations, that had been cooked up in our horse camp at the rear. As he pointed to the portion, a blind-folded man had to call out the name of the man it was to go to. You see, it was necessary to be very impartial."

CHAPTER IV.

ANNO DOMINI 1864.

"How sleep the brave who sink to rest
By all their country's wishes bless'd!

By fairy hands their knell is rung;
 By forms unseen their dirge is sung;
 There Honor comes, a pilgrim gray,
 To bless the turf that wraps their clay;
 And Freedom shall awhile repair,
 To dwell a weeping hermit there." —Wm. Collins.

With the commencement of the new year; the Jordan Battery is at Russellville. Russellville is in Hamblen County. The men are in tents, and had no other protection during the winter. As a makeshift, their tents are pitched in a place protected from the wind, with a southern exposure. In front of their tents they build large fires, and at night sleep on leaves, or straw, or on the bare ground with their oil cloths only intervening. At times the weather was very cold, and at one time, while the officers were making out some official documents, the ink had to be set by the fire to keep it from freezing.

Historians are accustomed to give a very deplorable account of the state of affairs in the Confederacy at this time. Here is what an excellent school history says: "The Southern Confederacy was now in desperate straits. Her territory was cut to pieces and overrun by enemies. Her money was worthless; her resources exhausted. Her few soldiers were half naked and half starved, and the people at home were little better off." However this condition of affairs, did not have any influence over the men of the Bedford Light Artillery. For early in January, their term of enlistment being about to expire, they all enlisted to serve as long as the war might continue. To escape the evils resulting from an election of officers for the Company, and the right to elect them no one denied, it was proposed and agreed to, that a furlough should be granted to the men, and that they should consent to continue to serve under the same officers. Hence half of the men went home at one time, and the other half, after the first half returned. In a letter to the author Capt. Smith writes: "The weather was at times very cold, and when the first batch of men started off on a furlough the snow was perhaps a foot deep. Many of the men were shoeless, T W Reed in particular. They had to walk all the way to Bristol, about seventy five miles, for the railroad had not yet been re opened." In the history of Parker's Battery, Capt.

Smith alluding to the same subject says: "I might describe the bare-footed men going home on furlough from East Tennessee. Tom Reed started through the snow with his feet tied up in rags, and when, after a tramp of many miles, he reached the cars at Bristol, they were bare and bleeding. A little girl, standing in a door-way, saw him, and burst into tears, and gave him a pair of socks."

February 1.— About this time the men are returning to camp, they have enjoyed their visit home, they were gratified to see the self denial practiced by their friends and families, to keep them in the field. They come back, with good shoes and clothes, and set about their duties more determined than ever, to do all they can to establish the Confederate Government.

A short time after February 14, the Company leaves Russellville, and goes into camp near Bull's Gap, Tennessee, which is about fifteen miles from Greenville, but nearer Bristol.

While the Company was at Bull's Gap, and in February, there were a number of promotions in the Company and in the battalion. Col. E. P. Alexander on February 26, was promoted to be Brigadier General and Chief of Artillery for the First Corps. Major Frank Huger, who came to the battalion about May 1, 1863, is made Lt. Colonel. Captain T. C. Jordan, about this time, receives his commission as Major, and it is dated May 3, 1863, but by some oversight was detained in the War Department. Senior First Lt. J. D. Smith is now made Captain of the Company. He writes to me that he never held a commission, but was made Captain by order of Brigadier-General E. P. Alexander. And at the same time, Junior First Lt. J. R. Thurman becomes Senior First Lt., a promotion well deserved by long and faithful service. From this time forth to the end of the war, Captain John Donnell Smith had command of the Jordan Battery, and J. R. Thurman was its First Lieutenant.

When the Company left Orange C. H. in 1863 for Dalton Ga., it turned over its horses to the Quartermaster. On reaching its destination, they were given a new lot of horses. These horses, although treated as well as possible and fed very well, and stabled at Russellville, are now in a wretched condition, and our officers are inclined to

think that the Battery horses will not be of much more service.

March 1.—The Home Guards or Reserves, composed of citizens between the ages of sixteen and eighteen and forty five and sixty, having been ordered into service, many youths between sixteen and eighteen are joining the Battery preferring to be in the regular army with Lee's gallant veterans. Hence the Company receives about this time a good number of recruits.

About this same time, two of the men of the Jordan Battery, moved partly by hunger and partly by a desire to add something to their plain fare of fried meat and corn bread, went at night to a house not far from camp, and helped themselves to many of the good things to be found in a Tennessee country house. It is also said that an exasperated woman of the house, came near killing one of the men with an axe. In a short time, two women came to our camp, and told Captain Smith that two of his men had broken into their house, and had carried off much that was good to eat. He heard their complaint, and told them to point out the men, and he would certainly punish them. Shortly afterwards, he had all the men drawn up in line, but the guilty men by a process not peculiar to the men of the Jordan Battery, had so disguised themselves, that these women could not identify the men who broke into their house. So the matter was not heard of again.

It is certainly true that "on the march from Knoxville to Russellville we had to live on the country of course but food and other supplies for man and horse were obtained only through the regular channels of the Quartermaster and other staff officers," but our officers did not suffer their men to take the property of the citizens of the country, even to satisfy their hunger.

March 12.—A. C. Catlett and Joseph A. Graves, reached camp about sundown. The former, has returned because his furlough is out, and the latter has come to join the Company.

March 19.—Joseph A. Graves was enlisted as a member of the Battery, the medical examination being conducted by Dr. H. C. V. Gray, and the oath was administered by one of the officers of the Company.

After this, we had a snow about twelve inches deep,

which made camp life very disagreeable.

March 26.— Early this morning, we took down our tents, and commenced our march to Bristol, Tennessee, a distance of sixty five miles. The recent deep snow put the roads in a very bad condition. We had a terrible time. The men had plenty of food, but we could not get provender for our horses. We would often have to walk in mud knee deep, to help up a horse which had fallen in his traces, exhausted beyond endurance. Many of them died from hunger and hardships.

On the 27th and 28th days, we had a cold driving sleet. We crossed the Holston, but we kept dry as we were allowed to ride on the caissons. We reached Bristol the evening of the 31st, and went into camp on the Virginia side. I quote from my diary: "At Bristol, we drew for bread, a kind of mixture of meal, oats and flour which made horrible bread. In Tennessee, we would draw beef as meat rations, which was so poor that the water in which you would boil it, would not be greased."

We were encamped near Bristol, but in Virginia, until the evening of the seventeenth day of April. Then having loaded our guns on a flat car, we got on with them, and set out for Cobham Station, Albemarle County Virginia, a distance of 280 miles. We did not have any horses to ship as they had been sent seventy miles away to be pastured. On our way, we were allowed to stop over at Bedford City, the night of the eighteenth, and on the morning of the nineteenth we took the train for Lynchburg, where having put our guns and baggage on a flat car of the Orange and Alexandria road, we were allowed to spend the day on the streets of Lynchburg.

On the evening of the nineteenth, we got on the flat car under our guns and slept, and next morning, we unloaded our guns and baggage, and on the twentieth day of April, we went into camp at Cobham Station, on the Virginia Central Railroad.

While here, we had preaching once on Sunday, also a review of our battalion of artillery and the two divisions of infantry which Longstreet took with him to Tennessee. Also while here, our daily rations consisted of one and a quarter pounds of meal, a quarter of a pound of bacon, some salt, and a little rice, sugar and coffee.

At this time, Second Lt. Dabney J. Carr, was assigned to our Company, and had command of the Second Section. We are also provided with a sufficient number of horses in good order, to supply the wants, of the Battery.

We notice the weather is warm and the roads are getting in good order, when one afternoon about three o'clock, May 4th, orders came for our Company to march. I have used the term "our Company," for we have come all alone from Bull's Gap, Tennessee, by ourselves, and alone we go to the battlefield of the Wilderness.

In an hour, our horses are hitched, our baggage packed our tents are struck, and we are ready to set out on our march. We go six miles, to Gordonsville, and there encamp for the night.

I quote from my diary: "The next morning, May 5th, at five o'clock, we started again. We marched thirty miles that day. It was very warm and dusty. Just about night, we arrive near the Chancellorsville battlefield, where the battle of the Wilderness has been raging all day.

On the morning of the next day, May 6th, we started again, about the time the sun rose. Firing commenced, and pretty soon, we saw the wounded coming back. This is very demoralizing to men going in a fight. The roar of the artillery was grand, and magnificent. We also heard the roar of the musketry. I cannot describe it better than to say it sounded like squibs when popped off very fast, or, the roar of water, with the sound of friction primers intermingled."

About 4 o'clock we passed along a road on the edge of which a battle line of infantry rested. But we never took position in line of battle, and that because the nature of the ground was not suitable for artillery, and there were but a few pieces used in the fight.

For the first time, in its history, had the Army of Northern Virginia failed to shake off its antagonist, and drive him back to his base of operations. Grant moves off to his left, aiming to secure a strong position at Spottsylvania Court House; but when he approached it with his army, he found it occupied by the Confederates.

On the seventh of May, while Lee with his infantry is establishing his line, the Tyler Jordan Battery is

encamped for the day in the rear not far off. My diary gives an account of our movements at Spottsylvania Court House, so I will quote from it, and thus be accurate.

"On Sunday morning, May 8th, we set out for Spottsylvania Court House, a distance of fifteen miles. We reached it, about one o'clock P. M. All along, as we neared the field, we heard the report of cannon. We went into position, not far from, and almost directly behind the Court House, which was in full view, and we expected an engagement every minute." We remained here until next morning, May 9, when we move to the left about one mile from the Court House, and in the evening about dusk, we take our position in line of battle behind breastworks, with Kershaw's division.

The historian of Parker's Battery says: "The position occupied was one of peculiar importance being at an angle of the line, from which we could enfilade the charging Federals to our left." This author is right, as our Battery was about forty yards from them, on their right, the fourth detachment being next to them. On arriving at the line, we looked around. A dead Federal soldier lies behind us a little off to the right, who from appearances must have been killed several days ago; we pass him until the next night, when he is removed and buried by the infantry.

For our protection we dig a ditch two feet wide and three feet deep on each side of our gun No. 4, and parallel to the wheels. The breastworks in front of this gun is considered very poor, and a detail of the fourth detachment to which the writer belongs goes over the breastwork to strengthen it by throwing up more dirt, and while engaged at this the Federal picket line opens fire on them, when they are glad to get on the inside. We then lie down around the gun until morning.

Our horses were sent to camp in the rear entirely out of danger; and I may add, for the rest of the war the guns were put in position on the line and the drivers and horses were in camp in the rear.

May 10. On this Tuesday morning when we looked out in our front, we saw about twenty dead men of the enemy, who from their appearances must have been killed several days before in fighting for the line, and they re-

mained there until we left the line. My diary, written at that date says: "The stench arising from the bodies of dead men was awful. Dead men had been exposed to the sun for several days, and were all around us."

All day long the sharp shooters of the enemy who were concealed and protected in rifle pits not far away, kept up a continual fusilade in front, which made it very dangerous for those who were at the guns. When the Federals charged on our left, we fired on them until they fled to their works; we also fought them on the right.

During the day while J. W. Scott was at the gun, he was slightly wounded in the hand, whereupon he immediately went to the hospital, and from there home.

Late in the afternoon we were subjected to a shelling at the hands of the enemy which lasted some time, during which a heavy rain fell. Every moment we looked for them to charge us, but they did not come.

Wednesday, May 11.—"We have sharp shooting in the morning. This is not very dangerous when the men take care of themselves. But it is very tiresome to sit on the ground in a trench all day long." Whenever we went to the rear for any purpose whatever, we went through bullets, which though unseen could be heard distinctly. The rain has been falling all day, but as we are in the edge of a piece of pine woods, we are not annoyed by mud. There has been fighting and charging all day long, and a report is current among us that they are stimulated with whisky. The darkness of night put an end to all our operations save those of our vigilant pickets who kept watch for us, fifty yards apart and in the ditch, just beyond the breast-works.

Thursday, May 12.—On our right this morning Hancock made a desperate and successful charge on our line, and captured twenty guns and many prisoners, among whom was Gen. Edward Johnson. We could see Federal troops all day passing to that point, while the rain was falling, and as they passed we would shell them. But all this did not hinder me from kindling a small fire a little behind the gun and having a nice breakfast of coffee, fish and crackers, secured in some way from the enemy. My diary says: "The troops can get but little sleep as there is no safety only in the ditches."

Friday, May 13.—I quote from my diary: "We were called to our guns to be ready to meet the enemy whom we expected to make an attack on our lines, but he did not come up, and we were disappointed. There was a great deal of fighting all around us; but we were never charged in force in our front."

Saturday, May 14.—About this time the sun was shining out beautifully and everything was very quiet out on the picket line, when to our great gratification they ran to their line and followed on after Grant's army which had departed. We now went over the breastworks and out on the field of battle. Our men searched for watches, rings, money and hats, but I did not see any one divested of his clothes. I stood still and looked on. On going to the right of the line with a comrade, when all the troops were gone, I saw a Confederate soldier dead, but sitting upright against a bank, his company and regiment gone.

I relate some instances which took place while we were on the line at Spottsylvania Court House. One day Private Joseph A. Graves was sent to Parker's battery, which was on our left, to borrow some ammunition, and although the pathway was through a shower of bullets, he did not get any.

A detail was made from the fourth detachment to go to the rear and get from an old house plank enough for a platform for the gun. The detail accomplished it, but it was a very dangerous undertaking.

I will also relate this incident, which illumines the battle field of Spottsylvania, and which outshines by far the incident of the same kind which is related by Jones in his *History of the United States*, page 293:

On the left of "the bloody angle" about 3 o'clock P. M., May 11, a wounded Federal soldier was seen to be lying between our breastworks and the picket line of the enemy. As each side fired he would turn to those firing and look imploringly. When there was a lull in the firing, James D. Bondurant, of Bedford City, proposed to Captain Smith to allow him and others to bring him in out of danger. The consent of the Captain having been obtained, Robert Blow, James D. Carder, and Daniel Driscoll, volunteer to go with Bondurant. The rescuing party expecting to be fired at, climbed over the breastworks and go to the young

soldier, who belonged to the 119th Pennsylvania regiment, and bring him safely inside our lines, through a shower of Federal bullets. The rescued soldier was exceedingly grateful to his rescuers and offered them his ring, watch, and all the money he had, amounting to thirteen dollars. Our men refused absolutely any reward, and an ambulance having been summoned, he was sent to the hospital. These four comrades should be known in history as the humane heroes of Spottsylvania.

We had not been on the line many days when in the midst of all this uproar of battle, up walked Sergeant John Harmon Stone, loaded down with letters, bundles, and baggage.

The five woolen hats are distributed to their owners, hats white of color with wide brims, regular plantation hats. A sharpshooter could hit one as easy as he could a barndoor, these are put away for use on another day.

Next he brought out an old fashioned pound cake for Private J. A. Graves baked by his sister, and sent with her best wishes. This cake was cut right away, in that rain and mud, amid flying bullets, and the bang of the cannon, with dead, unburied men on every side, and handed to officers and men. Thus there was a pound cake at the battle of Spottsylvania and well enough, for the Tyler Jordan Battery had been wedded to an "immortality of fame," and this was the wedding cake.

The historian of Parker's Battery makes this statement: "In the immediate subsequent battle of Spottsylvania Court House the battalion took a prominent part and was complimented by Gen. Lee himself."

In this engagement Grant had about 130,000 men; while Lee had about only 50,000.

From the night of May 14th to May 27th inclusive, we were marching to, and remained at North Anna River and Hanover Junction.

Reader do you call that indefinite, yes; but it is much better than two histories that set forth the operations at this place and give no dates at all.

Before May 20, the Tyler Jordan Battery was in position on a line of battle, to hold the road which leads across to Richmond. On North Anna River, we were under fire, and fired about twenty shots at the enemy

On the 24th and 25th of May, the Federals directed against us a heavy cannonade.

On May 24th, one man of the infantry was killed near us. We were posted in a sod field, on an eminence overlooking a piece of woods, which extended to the Southern bank of North Anna River. Some days, we were shelled with guns of heavy calibre, which caused us much uneasiness.

I quote from my diary: May 23.— We drew some molasses, about the first we ever drew and I may now add the last we ever drew. We enjoyed them very much, the quality was very good. We now draw rations of a pound of flour and $1\frac{1}{4}$ pound of meat. It is wonderful how men fed as we are, can have the heart to do what we do, and endure the hardships which we undergo. Even now I would prefer a piece of meat and a quantity of bread to any gift imaginable.”

On may 28 we leave the line at North Anna River. My diary says: “After a hard and continuous march of twenty-four hours we found ourselves near Richmond, in Henrico county. After considerable marching and counter-marching, during which time we pass some of the battlefields of 1862, marked plainly by the graves and skulls of men, we took our position in line of battle at or near Cold Harbor.”

On June 1, about 5 o'clock p. m., we were off from the lines about 600 yards, when the Federal troops under Generals Smith and Wright, made an attack upon that part of our line held by Generals Hoke and Kershaw. We ran up in time to fire into their advancing columns, which moved off to our right. Soon the cheering words came up the lines; “whipped them on the right.”

June 2.— All was quiet in front of the Tyler Jordan Battery

June 3.— On this day, about light, at a point on the line on our right and so remote from us, that we took no part in it. Grant made a determined assault, and received one of the bloodiest repulses of the war

On that part of the line where we were, there was no shade, behind us was an old corn field, on which the stalks still stood, in our rear at a considerable distance was a spring, and in front of us at a considerable distance

was a piece of woods. The pickets and sharpshooters of the enemy did not fire on us at all.

In this aforementioned corn field, was a luxuriant growth of wild onions. Vegetables being scarce, we concluded to see how these wild onions would eat, when cooked. So we fried a mess, with the result that we could not eat them at all. No one else need try the same experiment.

My diary says: "When we got up on the 13th, they had gone, moving down on the James." MaGill's history of Virginia says: "General Lee knew that General Grant was moving on the 13th of June to the South bank of the James."

On or about June 13th, we marched away from our line at Coal Harbor, and "followed Grant to the South side of James River. We crossed at Drury's Bluff, on the 16th of June, and on the 17th about three o'clock we went into line of battle, near James River, at a place called the Howlett House." otherwise known as Fort Dancler

That part of our line of battle, which ran from the Howlett House on James River opposite Dutch Gap Canal across to Swift Creek and Fort Clifton on the Appomattox, a distance of about three miles, was held by Pickett's division, which numbered between four and five thousand men; made a right angle at Fort Dancler, and hence we were put in a position of great importance and danger. On this same day, June 17, our four guns, three-inch rifle pieces, are put in position facing the East in the fort. Our horses with their drivers are sent to encamp in the rear; the cannoneers and officers pitch their tents behind the fort, and all are subjected to a furious bombardment by the gunboats lying in James River off from our left.

The ground around us is nearly level, the soil is sandy, behind and to the South of us there is a piece of woods. In front of the Fort there is a wide and deep ditch, in front of that there is an abatis, next a wide field in the shape of a parallelogram, then our picket line at a distance of 250 yards, then a deep ravine at the head of which is a good spring of water. Many a time did the writer go to that spring with a number of canteens, and he often wondered what would become of him, should the enemy

advance and commence firing.

At first we were cautious, but as the Federal picket line was far in our front, and as there was no firing on the line, the men built an arbor on top of the Fort between the embrasures, and sat there much of the time when not on duty, enjoying the cool breeze which came from the South.

Early in July, I note the arrival of James C. Reed, who lost his hand at Antietam. He reports for duty. As there were so many raids, may be he finds it more pleasant in camp than at home.

As I will have an opportunity to speak of our hospital service, the writer deems it proper to say that towards the last of July, he was taken sick and sent to our Battalion Hospital at Chester, a station on the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad.

Here, he was lodged all alone in a large frame house, his blanket on the floor his bed, and his knapsack for a pillow, with Dr H. C. V Gray, Physician in charge, who was a good doctor and excellent gentleman.

While at this hospital, on the morning of July 30th, I heard the mine blow up in front of Petersburg, which made a terrific explosion

August 3.—I reach Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond.

Here I was tended with care and tenderness. Our fare was good. At dinner, we had four kinds of meat, bacon, beef, mutton and chicken. We had plenty of tea and coffee. The wards were full; but no ladies came to see us, as was the custom of the times.

My case being a bad one, I was sent to Bedford City Hospital for treatment, and was registered at W T Campbell's brick factory, situated then near the overhead bridge, but Dr. Frierson kindly called to see me at my home.

September.— While I am at home, in the hospital, my comrades at the Howlett House, are watching the enemy, having chills and fever, and erecting for themselves log cabins, some of which were built entirely on top of the ground, while some are built partly in and partly out of the ground and with such energy did they work, that by October, all were provided with comfortable cabins. These cabins were not built in a row, or on streets, but just anywhere back of the guns. A detail of men put up

one for the officers on the North West corner of the camp.

On October 3, Sergeant J. L. Thompson, Daniel G. Wade and Joseph A. Graves, left Bedford City for their command. They spent a night at the Hotel in Richmond. They go to the Depot to go to Chester Station. They are detained by the Provost guard, and the next morning before day, are marched out to the lines, and put in position near Fort Harrison, which had been taken by the Federals a few days before.

Musket in hand, they expected to be ordered to charge it. They remain until next day, when by a ruse not peculiar to soldiers of the artillery, they make their way to their Company. On reaching it, about the 9th, they report all the facts to Captain Smith, who justifies their course.

I found, that in my absence, my mess mates had gone ahead, and had erected a log building twelve feet long, by eight wide, chinked and daubed, covered on top with plank. Although it was a rough house, it would certainly turn any ordinary rain, and was otherwise comfortable. It was provided with a chimney, and our bunks were put one above the other.

November.— My journal says that during this month, nothing occurred worthy to be related.

December.— My journal says: "All of us were glad when cold weather came, because we hoped it would drive away the chills and fever of the summer, which to a certain extent it did, but malaria produced its effects upon us all the time we occupied the line.

During this month, the Confederate soldiers began to desert in numbers unheard of before.

December 25.— This is Christmas day. We celebrate it thus: After roll call, an empty flour barrel is set in the middle of our camp, on it, is set a bucket containing two gallons of good whiskey, by it is set a small tin cup, the order is: "Each man may walk up and take a small drink," and almost every man obeys the order.

This is the Muster-Roll of the Company from October 31st to December 31st, 1864. It is signed by Captain John Donnell Smith and Lt. Col. Frank Huger. It is dated December 31st, 1864. Station, at trenches at Howlett's, Chesterfield County, Virginia. All have enlisted

for the war. Comrades will miss the names of Private *Daniel Driscoll*, and Lt. *Dabney J Carr*.

John Donnell Smith, Captain.

John R Thurman, First Lieutenant.

SERGEANTS.

R. S. Cunningham May 8 '61	J H. Stone, May 8, 1861
W P Hoffinan, May 8, '61	J. L. Thompson, May 8 '61
R. S. Thompson, May 8 '61	H. F Jones, May 29, 1861

CORPORALS.

J F Bondurant, May 8, 61	W H. Layne, June 21, 61
John A. Stover, May 8, '61	J W Campbell, May 8, 61
D. Brown, May 29, 1861	W Y Harris, May 8, 1861
W P Gibbs, May 26, 1861	C. E. Parker, May 8, 1861

PRIVATES.

Austin, B. I., June 4, 1861	Hudgens, W T., May 24, '61
Bledsoe, R. H., Mar 31, '64	Hatcher, H., Dec. 5, 1864
Boley, W H., May 8, 1861	Jarrett, D. W., May 8, '61
Boley, J B, July 23, 1861	Jarrett, E. S., Mar 14, '64
Brown, S., Feb. 1, 1864	Jones, C. P., May 8, 1861
Bondurant, J. D., May 8, '61	Jones, J. L, Mar. 25, 1862
Brosius, J. F., May 8, 1861	Kay, H., April 10, 1862
Broughman, J., Apr. 10, '62	Kembleton, E., Mar. 25, '62
Blum, E., July 1, 1861	Lockard, R. A., May 8, '61
Belmer, H., April 4, 1861	Mansfield, J L., May 8, '61
Bishop, T., Feb. 17, 1862	Marsh, T E., May 8, 1861
Bulman, F.; May 4, 1861	Marsh, R. A., March 18, '62
Bird, C., March 28, 1864	Miller, J W., May 8, 1861
Blow, R., May 1, 1864	Miller, C. H., May 8, 1861
Bowyer, R. H., Oct. 8, '64	McFarland, T, April 10, '62
Carder, J. D., May 8, 1861	Meloth, C., April 10, 1861
Coleman, J. W., May 8, 1861	Meyer, C., April 4, 1861
Crowder, J. H., Apr. 10, '61	Mills, C. W March, 25, '62
Cade, J. M., April 10, '61	Moore. S. C., May 21, 1861
Cade, T B., April 10, '64	Moore, W R., May 2, 1861
Carner, R. W., July 16, '61	McBride, S. S., April 10 '64
Crawford, G. W., May 8 '61	Murray, Chas., May 6, '64
Catlett, A. C, May 8, 1861	Newman, Thos. July 24 '62
Callis, Daniel, May 29, '61	Oney, R. T., July 16, 1861
Carlton, J. W., May 21, '61	Pitzenberger, V May 2 '61
Carlton, F, July 23, 1864	Reed, J. C., July 16, 1861

Chapman, W P., Jul. 12 '62	Reed, T W., Aug. 4, 1863
Chapman, J , Feb. 1, 1862	Reiler, Chas. May 25, 1861
Cobb, R. H., Mar. 31, '62	Reynolds, W O., Apr. 23 '64
Curl, W E., Feb. 17, '62	Richards, G. W., June 4 '64
Camper, N. L., Apr. 23, '61	Stetler, J P., May 8, 1861
Claytor, W G., Nov. 3, '64	Scott, J W., May 8, 1861
Elliott, W E., May 8, '61	Shartzter, W A., May 8, '61
Frazier, H., Mar 12, '62	Shartzter, A., May 13, 1864
Frazier, W E., May 8, '61	Sweeney, M. H. April 14 '62
Friedrich, E., May 8, '61	Sherwell, Wm., July 28 '62
Gregory, G., Mar 31, '62	Stansberry, C., Mar 24 '62
Green, P., May 29, 1861	Strasser, J., April 26, 1861
Gibbs, N T., Feb. 10, '64	Stott, B., March 16, 1864
Graves, J A., Mar 19, '64	Turner, S H., May 8, 1861
Huddleston, R. H., Jul. 22 '61	Trent, G. W., May 8, 1861
Huddleston, H. S., Jul. 22 '61	Trent, Jno. H., Nov 28, '62
Huddleston, J. E., Ap. 1, '62	Trent, Jas. W., March 3, '63
Huddleston, G. B., Ap. 4, '63	Wills, Henry, Oct. 8, 1862
Hurt, J R., May 8, 1861	Wills, W L., Feb. 14, 1864
Hawkins, B. F., May 8, '61	Wills, L., May 4, 1864.
Hawkins, J H., May 8, '61	White R. C., May 8, 1861.
Harris, J M., Apr. 1, '62	White, T T., May 8, 1861
Harris, J. L., Apr. 20, '62	Wright, Jno, May 29, 1861
Hogan, T., Feb. 14, 1862	Wade, D. G., May 8, 1861
Hogge, A., May 29, 1861	Wheat, J W July 27, 1861
Hogge, J., April 20, 1864	Wheeler, G. G, March 8, '64
Hogge, L. R., July 1, 1863	Watson, C., April 13, 1863.
Howard, T C., May 29, '61	Birch, Wm. H., July 16, '61
Hewitt, J B., Jan. 5, 1864	

The Jordan Battery was divided thus: First section; Second section. Lt. Thurman commanded the first section and Lt. Dabney J Carr the second section. There were four three inch rifle guns, numbered one, two, three, four. Guns numbers one and two, belonged to the first section; while guns numbers three and four, belonged to the second section. The men were divided into four detachments, and each detachment manned a gun called after its gun detachment number one, two, three, four Over each detachment was a sergeant, called after the guns, Sergeants numbers one, two, three, four Hence J L. Thompson was over the first detachment, R. S. Thomp-

son over the second detachment, Henry F. Jones over the third detachment, and J. H. Stone was over the fourth detachment

Every gun had a man to point it, who ranked as corporal. These were numbered after the guns, numbers one, two, three, four. Hence we had; J F Bondurant, First Corporal, W P Gibbs. Second Corporal, Dixon Brown, Third Corporal, C. E Parker, Fourth Corporal.

There were four corporals to give out the ammunition. One at each gun called after the number of the gun, Caisson Corporal number one, two, three, four.

Hence we had; J A. Stover, First Caisson Corporal; W Y Harris, Second Caisson Corporal; W H. Layne, Third Caisson Corporal; J. W Campbell, Fourth Caisson Corporal. J D. Smith, who had the love and confidence of every man in the Company, was Captain over all.

CHAPTER V

ANNO DOMINI 1865.

"The State that strives for liberty, though foil'd,
And forced to abandon what she bravely sought,
Deserves at least applause for her attempt,
And pity for her loss." — William Cowper.

The statements and dates of this chapter are very accurate; as I am guided by my journal and authentic histories.

At the commencement of this year, our battalion officers are Major T C. Jordan and Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Huger. Our address is

ROBERT A. MARSH,
COMPANY A, HUGER'S BATT ART'Y,
LONGSTREET'S CORPS,
A. N. VA.

One of our men went to Richmond without leave of absence, and spent Christmas there. Of his own accord, he came back and agreed to submit to the Captain's pun-

ishment, and have no court-martial. He was sentenced to work on the Fort.

Another man, who as much out of fun as anything else, during the previous summer, took a watermelon from the wagon of a man, who was selling them in camp, was strapped to a caisson. Our officers did not allow any one to steal, even to satisfy their hunger.

In the Army of Northern Virginia flogging was never used as a punishment; but death was the punishment for desertion. For straggling on a march, soldiers were often made to carry a rail. When a man failed to be at roll-call, he was made to do double guard duty.

Our officers were even tempered, just men, who did not seek occasion to punish their men: and if any man was punished, it was because he did not try to avoid it. There was rarely ever any punishment except double duty for missing roll-call, and we considered that about as disgraceful as a boy does, who is kept in at school.

During this month, the soldiers deserted in great numbers. "This new feature in affairs, soon became truly alarming. Men were deserting by scores. All of the regiments lost many men." Lest it should be supposed that this is an exaggerated statement, I add this quotation from the author of the History of Parker's Battery: "Desertions were so frequent and numerous that picket firing on the lines was more frequently caused by that than by an advance of the enemy."

As far as the author can ascertain, after diligent inquiry, not more than six men ever deserted from the Company while it was in the war. And most of these, had their homes inside the lines of the Northern Army, which made it very easy to desert. And the author takes pleasure in asserting that only one man from Bedford was ever known to desert, and he joined after the Company left for the war.

About the last of January, many orators came to the lines, some of whom were clergymen, whose aim was to exhort our soldiers to be true to the end; but they never spoke to us for really there was no need for it. Since there was only one man in our Company, who was known to be doubtful of our ultimate success; and as for John Harmon Stone and James C. Reed, it never occurred to them that we would fail to whip the enemy.

In fact about this time, the Company adopted a series of resolutions written by Sergeant J. C. Reed, in which they pledged their allegiance and undying devotion to the cause of their country, and these resolutions were the beginning of similar resolutions which were adopted, after this, by many companies and regiments of the Army of Northern Virginia.

First of February — At this time, our Company officers are Capt. J. D. Smith, First Lieutenant J. R. Thurman, and Second Lieutenant D. J. Carr, who had served in the Ordnance Department, but was now temporarily assigned to duty in the Company as Second Lieutenant by order of Lieutenant Col. Huger.

Lieutenant Thurman has been a faithful officer since his election in 1862, and since the promotion of Captain Jordan, he was the only Bedford man among the commissioned officers.

According to the customs of the times, a volunteer military company was always allowed to elect its own officers. It is also true, that when there was occasion for it, the Government would assign any officer to command in any company temporarily, but rarely ever permanently. In this way, some of the best officers the Company ever had were assigned to command in it.

Hence about this time, Henry A. Wise Jr., Instructor of Tactics and Professor of Mathematics at the Virginia Military Institute, was appointed to command in the Company as its Second Lieutenant. After this, it was also determined that the Company should exercise its right of electing an officer.

Hence pursuant to previous notice, on a given day, the Company elected of its own accord, Charles A. Bower to be its Second Lieutenant. Before this, he had been an officer in the Company, but resigned and joined the cavalry.

February 25.— Everything continued to go on in the same routine. We were kept inactive, until our gun boats came down the river, about the 25th of the month. The purpose was to come down the James, to run below the Federal lines, and then cut the Pontoon bridge which lay in full view below us. At this time, it was supposed that all the monitors of the Federals were down about Wilming-

ton. Our gun boats did come down as far as the Howlett House, but instead of going on, they were run aground. Some say because the Pilots were afraid, others, that they ran aground accidentally. Anyhow, when morning came, the light revealed two gun boats aground, and one lying a little distance from them.

As soon as the Federals saw them lying aground at a very little distance from them, they commenced a bombardment upon them. They would have been utterly destroyed, if our Battery of light artillery which was next to the River, had not been ordered to open on the heavy battery of the enemy. We opened on them with such effect, that we silenced them, and thus saved our gun boats, which when the tide arose went to their resting place under the guns of Fort Drury.

In this month, James C. Reed, according to a law passed by the Confederate Congress; was appointed Company Historian, and his brother, Thomas W. Reed, for meritorious conduct in the Tennessee Campaign, was made Corporal.

About this time, our bugler having died in the hospital, the Captain announced that any man might have his place, who could use his bugle, but out of our large Company no one was found who could play a tune on it, and henceforth, we had a bugle, but no bugler.

March 1.— About this time, we are given another gun. It is a small brass piece, to be used on the line, but not to be carried away. A detachment is formed whose duty it is to serve it.

The supernumeraries, or those who are not needed to work the guns, are given muskets to be used in case the enemy make an attack.

March 8.— On the night of this day, rain fell in torrents and wet everything but my bed.

On the tenth of March; we draw from the government sugar and coffee; but not one pound of flour was issued to us after the first of December. Corn meal was given at all times; and the men certainly grew tired of it.

The author of Pickett and his Men says: "His rations were a fourth of a pound of bacon, one pint of corn meal, unsifted, with now and then a bottle of sorghum, a few beans or peas or a little rice; no sugar, coffee or soap"

have no recollection, that Irish or sweet potatoes, were ever issued to us.

March 15.—About this time, I went over to Chester, which was about four miles from us. Here I heard that Lee intended to evacuate Richmond and Petersburg, and having united his forces with the army of Johnston, to fight Sherman before Grant could come up. I have since learned from history that the rumor was substantially correct, and that during the winter, Lee had considered and settled on a plan by which, he would march Southward.

About the last of March, Charles A. Bower, having been duly elected and transferred from Company A. 2nd Virginia Cavalry, came to the Company, and took command as lieutenant.

On the 29th of March, Pickett's division was ordered to the extreme end of our line on the right of Petersburg. The historian of Parker's Battery, says that if it had not been for the very sorry condition of the horses of our battalion, many having died from hunger during the winter; we would have gone with Pickett to Dinwiddie Court House and the battle field of Five Forks.

Had we gone to the battle field of Five Forks, I am not prepared to say that the writer would have ever penned these lines, or that comrade J. Fletcher Bondurant, would have ever built a house about his native place, Bedford City.

It is not improper to relate, that about this time, a Virginia Regiment, being ordered to take boats on James River, near Howlett's Bluff, and attack a Federal picket line across the river, flatly refused to go, and all the efforts of the officers to enforce obedience, were unavailing.

April 1.—Everything on our part of the line, was quiet during the day. After night fall, being on guard, I observe heavy firing in the direction of Petersburg.

About midnight, we were aroused by heavy firing. The Federal gunboats were shelling us heavily, so as to ascertain, if we had moved our guns. We did not make any reply.

April 2.—The weather is fine and there is not a cloud in the sky. This morning about sunrise, a heavy skirmish line attacked the line on our right. Our line which was very thin, repulsed them by the aid of our brass piece,

which enfiladed them from the top of the Fort. Our men were in high spirits, and the Jordan Battery never made a better fight. We congratulated ourselves on our success.

At this time, I do not suppose there was a man in the Battery, who thought we would ever evacuate our breast-works. But Grant having turned our right, and on this very day having broken our line at several points between the Appomattox and Hatcher's Run, Gen. Lee determined to evacuate Richmond and Petersburg.

About 3 p. m., a party of Federals, came to our lines under a flag of truce, and asked permission to take away their dead, who had been killed in the morning. This request having been granted, an officer was sent along with the Federals to show them their dead. It is said that our officer, finding the dead Federals divested entirely of their clothing, blushed deep'y.

About 5 p. m., we received orders to march. We destroy the muskets in the hands of our supernumeraries; and bury our little brass cannon. Next, we roll up our blankets, pack our knapsacks, gather up our cooking utensils and find our tent pieces. About this time, there was some little flour in the Company, and J. C. Reed had just gotten a box from home. Our officers, who were excellent and kind men, certainly did not have any idea of what was before us, for had they, that flour would have been carried on the caissons; and T. W. Reed would never have marched along with a piece of bacon tied to his back. All our preparations being complete, and our horses hitched up, at the word of command, we march away in complete ignorance of our destination, having been here nine months, and fifteen days. We have learned since, that General Lee wished us to go to Amelia Court House, thence to Burkeville, thence to Danville, and from there to the army to General Joseph E. Johnston. We continue our march all night long. Early on the morning of the 3rd of April, we reach Chesterfield Court House. Here James C. Reed shared his provisions with the entire Company; and he told me it was rich to see men partaking heartily of provisions, they were unwilling to help carry.

At this place, we hear a series of tremendous explosions, which were caused by blowing up the government arsenal and laboratory, and Fort Darling. We marched all that

day, as fast as our famished horses could be driven, and encamp at night.

We arise, April 4, much refreshed by a night's sleep. We are having a rainy day. The roads are right muddy, but as good as we could expect for the time of the year, and the very heavy army travel. Our horses, suffer for food, but they move on very well, and the cannoneer's are not called on often, to get a gun out of a mud hole. Our horses are moving on better than they did on the trip from near Bull's Gap to Bristol.

About this time, the writer recollects that food was not to be had, and we began to eat parched corn. A panicky feeling has begun to seize the army, and at night, when wagon trains rushed by there is considerable alarm.

Late in the afternoon of April 4th, with Lee's army, we cross the Appomattox, at a point opposite to and a little distance East of Amelia Court House. After which we encamp for the night.

April 5.—We marched on and reached the Village of Amelia Court House about noon. I do not recollect seeing troops in such great numbers; but the fields were full of teamsters, horses, and wagons.

At this place our Battalion, was divided in two parts. One part of 16 guns, went under the command of Major Parker on a road leading to Lynchburg; the other part of 8 guns, under command of Lt. Col. Frank Huger and Major T. C. Jordan, was to make a break, to pass Burkeville, and secure our line of retreat to North Carolina, where we would unite with Johnston. Gen. Lee, with a strong force of infantry, accompanied these 8 guns under Lt. Col. Huger and Major T. C. Jordan.

The second section of the Jordan Battery, was selected to go, under Lt. Col. Frank Huger and Major T. C. Jordan along the dangerous route which led to Burkeville; and any man, who was feeble or unwell, was excused from going.

Sergeant John Harmon Stone, being at home on detail, pieces nos. 3 and 4 were in charge of Sergeant Henry F. Jones of the 3rd piece, and Sergeant James C. Reed, of the 4th piece. Capt. J. D. Smith and Lt. H. A. Wise had charge of this second section, composed of detachments

Nos. 3 and 4. So we parted and went on our respective routes.

Grant having massed his troops at Burkeville, we aim to go to Lynchburg by way of Farmville. Hungry and tired we marched all that night. Thursday, April 6.—In the morning, the weather is cloudy and there are indications of rain; but we march on quietly, and are not apprehensive of any danger. By noon, the weather is clear and all appearance of rain is gone. At this time, Pickett's troops are behind us; while Mahone's command is in our front. We are marching along the road all alone, and the forces behind us and in our front are not in sight.

The battalion comes to Sailor's Creek which is a small marshy stream, difficult to cross, and empties into the Appomattox. Having crossed the stream, the battalion marches up the road which slopes gradually to the stream, and the whole battalion reaches the level ground on the summit of the hill. At this time, a brigade of the cavalry of Sheridan, under the command of Gen. Custer, strikes the head of our battalion, and captures and carries off almost every man and gun in it.

The writer was an eye witness to what he is about to relate, and will give an account of what occurred to the second section of the Jordan Battery, at Sailor's Creek, as it has been in his mind from that time to this. I have also consulted comrades H. S. Huddleston and J. C. Reed who were on the ground.

I was marching on behind the command. When I came to the creek, I pulled off my shoes and socks, crossed over and put them on again. When I reached the summit of the hill, the second section of the Jordan Battery, was coming back as fast as it could, and Sheridan's cavalry was cutting them, right and left with their sabres. I saw them plainly cutting and slashing the men of the 3rd detachment.

Seeing all this, I ran into the woods on my left, aiming to keep out of sight but parallel with the road. In my haste, I lost my knapsack full of clothes and conveniences. I stopped in the pines, when I got to a point about opposite where the cavalry struck the head of our column.

While I was here, a number of comrades came up all of

whom belonged to the 4th detachment, unless perhaps Jacob Strasser. The reason why so many escaped from this detachment, was; it belonged to gun no. 4, which was at the end of the column. We go out to the road, when our gun No. 4, comes up, and about the same time Hunton's brigade of Pickett's division comes up, and formed a line on the left of the road. About this time Captain J. D. Smith arrives. We then take our position on the line facing the South. Behind us is the road, and in front of us about 800 yards distant, is a line of Sheridan's cavalry. We fire a number of times at the enemy, but he does not reply. He is waiting for his infantry. While our enemy does not reply, he sends out a number of sharpshooters, who get in, and behind a barn, on our left and 400 yards from us. These, while we work the gun, No. 4, get our range, and cut the spokes of the wheels of the gun with their bullets. Said T. W. Reed: "I thought they would cut the spokes in two"

Here is a list of those, who fought at gun No. 4 of the Jordan Battery at Sailor's Creek; Jacob Strasser, who acted as Caisson Corporal; Joseph A. Graves, who carried the powder and shell to the piece and put them in; Thomas W. Reed, who rammed them; Corporal Charles E. Parker, who sighted it; and Capt. J. D. Smith, who commanded all.

Sergeant J. C. Reed having been sent by the Captain to another part of the field, was not present.

B. F. Hawkins was driver of the wheel horses; and Henry S. Huddleston driver of those in the lead. Henry S. Huddleston, who in this fight was wounded in the wrist, saved himself by dodging between his horses.

While our gun was on the line, we were greatly surprised to see about twenty Federal cavalry, ride up to our line in its rear. One volley from the infantry dispersed them, and two men lay on the ground, right at the left of our gun, one dead, one wounded. Jacob Strasser soon rifled their pockets, and gave the writer a small piece of money as a souvenir, which he kept for a long time.

In a letter, recently received from Corporal T. W. Reed, he mentions the engagement at Sailors' Creek and says; "and at every discharge of the gun it seemed to me that men and horses legs and arms were flying forty feet in the

air, we must have done terrible excution, and it makes my heart sick to think of the fact"

Captain John Donnell Smith, in a letter to the writer, dated Aug. 5, 1902 says: "If you see Henry S. Huddleston give him my kindest regards. I shall never forget those last days with him and with you at Sailor's Creek, serving the last gun in action of our Battalion, and firing the very last shot. It is something for you to be proud of.

Our ammunition gave out and we went up the road a short distance. Here being surrounded on every side save one, we had orders to leave the gun, and mount the hors^{es} and make our escape.

I rode out behind Henry S. Huddleston, and looking back, I saw the Federals coming on with fixed bayonets. Thus all who were at the gun, made their escape, save comrade B. F Hawkins, who got off his horse to walk, and was soon captured.

We rode on, and after dark, spread down our blankets, and went to sleep. Captain Smith and the writer slept together. Our camping place was almost under the High Bridge.

April 7.—We are awakened by the firing of the enemy, who are forcing their way across the bridge.

Our squad of men, the remnant of the 21 section of Jordan's Battery, hasten on. We approach Farmville, and leaving it on our left, we cross the bridge, and come over into Cumberland county. During the day, we overtake the first section of our Company, and as we march along, we tell them everything that took place. Continuing our hurried march, about night, we reach New Store in Buckingham county. Here one comrade furnished a hog, one some peas, and another some meal, and we had a good supper.

The comrade who furnished the hog had killed him, and was afraid to let it be known, when Sergeant J. C. Reed told him that the Captain had gold and would pay for it.

April 8.—Corporal J. F. Bondurant, who was first Corporal during the war, states "that during this day the first section went into position and fired on the enemy, who was pressing too closely upon us" Nothing else occurred worthy to be related, and at night fall, we went into camp

about one mile to the right of Appomattox Court House.

That night, while we are sleeping, Gen. Lee holds a consultation with Generals Gordon, Pendleton, Fitz Lee, and Longstreet as to what must be done on the morrow.

April 9.—On the 7th, Gen. Grant and Lee's Corps commanders, had suggested to him that the time had come for negotiations. But when the message of the chivalric Gordon came, "Tell Gen. Lee I have fought my old Corps to a frazzle, and can do nothing more unless heavily supported by Longstreet," Lee said, "Then there is nothing left me but to go to General Grant, and I had rather die a thousand deaths than do it.

Thus the surrender came about; but it found us in line of battle with the troops of General Mahone.

The first man, who announced the surrender in our company, was put under arrest; but soon after, Gen. E. P. Alexander told it to Captain Smith, and it became generally known. Then home and the surrender were common topics of conversation.

We are encamped in a broom sedge field, the soil is gray and gravelly, and the weather is clear.

April 10.—This morning, we slept as late as we pleased. During the day, we put pieces Nos. 1 and 2 of our first section in park; and drew rations for two days from the Federals; and these are the first rations we have drawn since we commenced the retreat.

April 11.—We remain in camp all day; and there is much mud all around us.

Wednesday, April 12.—Lee's, "Farewell Address," to his army, is read and our paroles are handed to us.

Here is a fac simile of the one handed to the writer.

Appomattox Court House, Va.,

April 10, 1865.

THE BEARER, Private Jos. A. Graves, of Company A, Huger's Battalion of Artillery, a Paroled Prisoner of the Army of Northern Virginia, has permission to go to his home, and there remain undisturbed,

T. C. JORDAN, Majr. Com'd'g.

PAROLED PRISONER'S PASS:

Here is also, a list of the officers and men of Company A. Huger's Battalion Light Artillery, surrendered, and paroled at Appomattox C. H. It is a true copy of a copy of the original list, obtained from the War Department by Captain J. D. Smith, and by him put in the Confederate Museum at Richmond, Va.

CAPTAIN.

JOHN DONNELL SMITH.

LIEUTENANTS.

JOHN R. THURMAN, 1st.	DABNEY J. CARR, 2nd.
HENRY A. WISE, 2nd.	CHARLES A. BOWER, 2nd.

SERGEANTS.

ROBERT S. CUNNINGHAM.	HENRY F. JONES.
RICHARD S. THOMPSON	JAMES C. REED.

CORPORALS.

JOHN F. BONDURANT	WILLIAM H. LAYNE.
CHARLES E. PARKER.	JAMES W. CAMPBELL.

PRIVATES.

Benjamin I. Austin,	Thomas McFarland.
Josephus F. Brosius,	Christian Meloth,
Jacob Broughman,	Cort Meyer,
Herman Bellmer,	Charles W. Mills,
Robert H. Bowyer,	Edward R. Murray,
James D. Carder,	Timothy McMahan,
John W. Coleman,	Thomas Newman,
John H. Crowder,	Walter R. Overstreet.
Thomas B. Cade,	Mathew J. Pate,
Arthur C. Catlett,	Thomas W. Reed,
William Curl,	Charles Reiler,
Newton L. Camper,	George W. Richards,
William E. Elliott,	Al Shartzner,
Henry Frazier,	Milton H. Sweeney,
William E. Frazier,	William Sherwell,
Edward Friedrich,	Charles Stansberry,
Nathaniel T. Gibbs,	Jacob Strasser,
Joseph A. Graves,	Bruce Stott,
Henry S. Huddleston,	Samuel H. Turner,
Green B. Huddleston,	George W. Trent,

Joseph L. Harris,
Thomas C. Howard,
James B. Hewitt,
Charles P. Jones,
Henry Kay,
James L. Mansfield.
John W. Miller,

James M. Trent,
Robert C. White,
Thomas T. White,
John Wright,
John W. Wheat,
Calvin F. Watson,

Then we say goodbye, and shake hands, and many of us will never see one another again.

As our Company at this time was composed of men from a number of different sections, those from the same place congregate together, and set out in the same direction. Some set out to Bedford, Botetourt, Nottoway, the Peninsula, Richmond, New Orleans and Baltimore.

A narrative of what occurred to each party would be of interest; but I can only give an account of those who set out for Bedford City. The party numbers in all about twenty persons. Comrades at this time, can recall certainly, only the names of these persons, who were in the party; J. F. Bondurant, J. W. Campbell, J. A. Graves, Henry Kay, H. S. Huddleston, J. L. Mansfield, and Lt. J. R. Thurman.

The road through Lynchburg is our best way, and most direct route; but we determine to go by way of Campbell Court House, fearing lest we should be detained in Lynchburg, by an examination of our papers.

So with light hearts we set out, and having passed through Campbell Court House, we stop in about six miles of New London, near Alexander's Mill. Here a gentleman gives us some meal and meat, and allows us the use of a log house near his dwelling. He was a cordial friendly man, and I regret that I cannot recall his name. Thursday April 13.—We rise very early, and go on our journey. We enter the Lynchburg and Salem Turnpike, and then being in the direct road, we are sixteen miles from home.

Tired, worn, jaded, hungry, we press right on through New London. Little children give us a cup of cold water all ignorant of the fact, that these are the heroes of Antietam, Gettysburg and Spottsylvania.

As the Peaks of Otter rise to view their steps are quick-

ened and they put on new energy. When at last they gaze on their homes, their hearts are filled with joy and gladness. On entering the gate, the dog barks, but when they enter the house, Father and Mother come forward and receive them as one from the dead.

Thus the men of the Tyler Jordan Battery reached Bedford City April 13, about five o'clock, having been in the Confederate army for four years, lacking one month and two days.

Here is the route the Tyler Jordan Battery followed on the retreat. Leaving the line at the Howlett House in Chesterfield County, they come to Chesterfield Court House. Then marching on, they cross the Appomattox and reach Amelia Court House. From there, they cross Sailor's Creek in Prince Edward County, stop and engage in battle, and going by the High Bridge and Farmville near which they cross the Appomattox, they come to New Store in Buckingham County. From New Store they go to Appomattox Court House, and from there to Campbell Court House, then to New London, and from there to Bedford City.

Here is a list of the counties they pass through: Chesterfield, Amelia, Prince Edward, Cumberland, Buckingham, Appomattox, Campbell and Bedford.

In the preceding pages, I have as far as possible, given to every man in the Company all possible mention. Each man is deserving of honor and honorable mention, and the names of the few among us who proved false to their colors and their country, have been left out. Therefore all persons whose names occur on these rolls, are worthy of a place in every organization devised by a grateful people to perpetuate their memory.

And as for comrades J. F. Bondurant, W. P. Hoffman, H. S. Huddleston, and R. A. Marsh, who reside among us, there need be no inquiry about their record, for as they are excellent citizens, so they were good and true soldiers, and their record is without a blemish.

And as for the writer, he asks permission of all his comrades to say of himself that his place was at Gun number four, and that whenever that gun went into position or action he was always at its side.

And now, deeply conscious of having rescued from

oblivion a vast number of important and interesting facts about the Bedford Light Artillery, I lay down my pen and rest from my labors.

APPENDIX.

The author is greatly gratified to be able to place these letters before the reader. It also affords him pleasure to be able to state that no one refused his request for a letter. However much these writers may differ among themselves in rank; in gallantry on the field of action, and in zeal and devotion for the Lost Cause, no one exceeds the rest.

LIEUTENANT JOHN R. THURMAN

This officer was identified with the Battery for so long a time, that the author feels that he should have a place here. He cannot speak for himself and his comrades but others can speak for him. Captain John Donnell Smith in a letter to the author writes: "I was much attached to Thurman. He was most resourceful and practical, abounding in 'horse sense,' and never lost heart. Little things never worried him, and he never shirked his work." Major T. C. Jordan pays him this high tribute: "Lt. Thurman was unquestionably a very brave, gallant and efficient officer."

Lynchburg Va., Oct. 16, 1902.

Rev J. A. Graves,

My Dear Sir:— At your request, I give you a brief account of my share in the battle of Second Manassas under Col. S. D. Lee.

Our Battalion of Artillery was placed in position about three o'clock in the afternoon on a slight eminence with our left resting on Manassas Gap Rail Road, and our right extending in the direction and near the Haymarket wagon road. Jordan's Battery was on the extreme right of Battalion and I had charge of the two right hand guns, or second section. I think Lt. Thurman was with me at the time, and Sergeants Reed and Stone were also with me. I use the term "with me," beause there was quite a space between us and the next section. Our guns were

smooth bore, of the old ordinary pattern, and I think six pounders.

We were confronted by King and Morrel's brigades of Syke's division (Regulars) and they made two distinct and separate charges to capture our artillery, but failed each time, as our canister and grape mowed them down and they had to leave the field, but I must say the enemy fought well in the face of such a fire. We held our position for some two hours, or more, when the retreat of the enemy commenced and we in pursuit, which ended for the day when darkness came. We lost no one killed in our Company, and only a few slightly wounded, but I do not remember who they were.

Very truly,
J. O. BOLEY

Annandale, S. C., Oct. 5, 1902.

Rev J. A. Graves,

Dear Sir:— Your highly esteemed favor of the 29th was duly received, when I was confined to my room from an attack which had been so serious that the doctor has forbidden me any literary work for some time to come, so that I can do but little more than answer your questions. I was promoted Colonel of Artillery Nov 8th, 1862, and took command of our old Battalion, I think, on the same day. My Commission as Brigadier General of Artillery bears date Feb. 26, 1864. The Bedford Light Artillery was one of the choicest batteries under my command. Capt. Tyler C. Jordan and Lt. John R. Thurman were fine types of the Virginia country gentleman turned soldier, and Lt. John Donnell Smith of Baltimore, afterwards Captain, was a rare specimen of the highly educated and cultivated man of science, when earnest patriotism led him to leave a home of luxury, for four years of the utmost hardships, and danger, fighting for the cause which his judgment espoused. But in loyalty, and in bravery and in devotion to their cause, there was nothing to choose, between officers and privates. All bore their parts in such glorious spirit that no officer who had the good luck to command them, even for a time, but must carry to his

grave, for them all, the warmest love and highest respect of which his nature is capable.

Looking back on the history of the old Battalion, I think it can be said that never from first to last did it happen to any of it, to have to retreat under fire.

And I know it is true, that at Gettysburg, Longstreet's Artillery had more casualties than Hill's and Ewell's artillery had combined, and further that our Battalion had more than the other battalions of our own corps combined.

Very sincerely yours,

E. P. ALEXANDER.

Columbus, Miss., Sept. 22, 1902.

Rev. J. A. Graves,

My Dear Sir:— In response to your letter of September 17, 1902, asking, I write you a short account of my connection with Capt. T C. Jordan's Battery of Artillery during the war between the States, from Bedford City, Va., I reply

After the Seven Days Battles around Richmond in 1862 I was assigned to the command of a Battalion of artillery to accompany Gen. Lee's army to Second Manassas and Sharpsburg battles. In this Battalion was Capt. T C. Jordan's Battery of four guns.

Its conduct during the battle of Second Manassas, was most gallant and praiseworthy. Capt. Jordan played a most conspicuous part. With Capt. Taylor, he commanded the rifle and smooth bore guns, on the right of the line occupied by the Battalion, while Col. Lee took one of his guns, a howitzer, and with all his other howitzers of the Battalion, moved further to the left and nearer the enemy. The Battery did excellent service during the entire battle, and Capt. Jordan was mentioned in Col. Lee's report for distinguished conduct.

The Battery was also conspicuously engaged in the battle of Sharpsburg or Antietam. On the 16th of Sept., 1862, to the left and front of Sharpsburg. Later, Sept. 17, to the left near the Dunker Church, and still later, again, in front of Sharpsburg, facing Antietam Creek. While on the left, near the Church on the morning of

the 17th of September, it was advanced to an exposed position; but was compelled to retire, under a concentrated fire of several batteries.

The conduct of the Battery was always gallant and distinguished.

After Sharpsburg, I was sent to the Western Army, and Col. E. P. Alexander took command, and later Col. Huger.

The Battalion made two of its Commanders, Generals, during the war by its splendid record in battle.

Yours truly,
STEPHEN D. LEE.

Gainseville, Ga., Aug. 9, 1902.

Rev Joseph A. Graves;
Bedford City, Va.

Dear Sir:— It gratifies me to learn that you are writing a history of Jordan's Battery, Huger's Battalion, First Corps, Army of Northern Virginia.

On many a hotly contested field, the famous battery showed the enemy how a Confederate soldier could fight and die. Its great deeds belong to the imperishable records of the Confederate struggle.

The men of Jordan's Battery deserve the love and grateful remembrance of those who cherish the heroic memories of the great lost cause of our history. And in the larger day that is opening for the republic, their sacrifice, suffering and indurance, will be held as a priceless heritage from the birth throes of the nation, illustrative of the valor of the American soldier.

Yours truly,
JAMES LONGSTREET.

Tyler Calhoun Jordan, son of Jubal Jordan, was born in Bedford County, Virginia.

While a school boy, he studied Scott's Tactics, and commanded a company of schoolboys.

Later as a youth, he as a volunteer participated in a brief Indian campaign on the Pacific Coast in the early days of California.

After 1855, he resided in Bedford City, and was engaged in merchandising.

During the session of 1859-60 he was at the University of Virginia engaged in the study of law.

In December 1860, being about twenty four years old, he began to recruit the Bedford Light Artillery, and at its organization was elected Captain. He served through the Civil War, and was promoted to be major

After the war, he went to Texas, practiced law, and became judge.

In 1869 at Dallas, he was married to Miss Annie R. Lewis of Alabama but related to the Virginia family of that name. His fortune is ample, and at this time, he is engaged in constructing a Railway in Mexico.

He has taken great interest in the preparation of the History of the Bedford Light Artillery, and the information obtained from his memoranda. has been of the greatest value and assistance. At the request of the author, he has written the subjoined letter to be placed in the appendix.

Parras, Estado de Coahuila, Mexico, Dec. 22, 1902.

Rev J. A. Graves,
Bedford City, Va.,

My Dear Sir:— I was greatly pleased to learn from your letter addressed to me at Tempe, Arizona, of your purpose to write a history of the Bedford Light Artillery Company, in the Civil War.

For nearly three years, I had the honor to command the Company, and after my promotion was assigned to duty with the command with which it had so long served, and continued to serve until the close of the war. I can therefore speak with pardonable pride, I hope, of its splendid achievements in the many battles in which it was engaged, of its admirable conduct in camp, and of its patient endurance on the march, ever ready and ever willing to undertake any duty assigned to it, whether at the "Post of Honor" in front, or at one of less importance on the flank, or with the rear guard. And this statement, to the soldier means more than words can express. Of such material, officers and men, invincible armies are composed, and of such material, was that incomparable Army of Northern

Virginia of which it was a part, until worn, out by long marches, deaths in battle, and starvation, it yielded up its arms to overwhelming numbers and resources.

It is not my purpose to write of the movements, and hardships endured by the Company. These things belong properly to the history which you have under consideration, and will be I am sure treated of faithfully, fairly, and ably. But, I will write briefly of the causes which brought about the enlistment of the Company, at that time, and shortly thereafter of so many others.

The fratricidal blow at Harper's Ferry, had already been struck, it was a cowardly one as such blows always are; the sectional party directly responsible for it, came into power; at the head of the most important Department of the Government, was placed that arch conspirator; who had long before that time declared that our Constitution which bears the name of Washington and many of the noble patriots of his time, was a "League with death and a covenant with hell;" the peace Commissioners, who had assembled at Washington were soon turned away, and a call for 75,000 troops to invade the State was issued; hence there was now no other honorable course left to Virginia and the South, but to strike for homes and firesides and all that these words at that time implied.

And right nobly that duty was performed, and continued to be, until we were so vastly outnumbered as to make further resistance not only useless but a crime. They had the world to draw from, and to that fact alone is due the success which finally attended them.

Many books, purporting to be "National Histories" of those times and events, have been written, all of which are extremely sectional, partial, and shamefully inaccurate. To the historian of the future, freed from party influence and sectional bias, belongs the task of presenting the truths of those times in their true light. Such an one, can have but little trouble in unmasking the hypocritical pretentious venality, and savagery of those who were directly responsible for the war that followed, and the barbarities committed while it continued.

During the war, the Company was several times recruited from home, and once by a considerable detachment from a disbanded battery originally enlisted near Williams-

burg. With this detachment, came First Lt. John Donnell Smith of Baltimore, Maryland, a brave and gallant officer who had few if any superiors in the Artillery service of the Army.

Of the original officers of the Company, Lieutenants J. O. Hensley, R. B. Claytor, and R. T. Aunspaugh, formed commands of their own; and all received deserved promotion.

Of those who took their places, Lt. J. O. Boley, after serving gallantly through the campaign in Maryland, resigned to take a place in the civil service; and Lt. C. A. Bower also resigned to join the Cavalry, but afterwards returned to the Company as second lieutenant, near the close of the War. While gallant Lt. J. R. Thurman, who had joined the Company as a private at Jamestown, had by successive promotions reached the second place of command.

To my old comrades who survive, I send affectionate greetings; and as for those, who fell, and are sleeping their last sleep on the hills and in the valleys of distant battle-fields, I hold, and shall ever hold them in affectionate remembrance.

Most sincerely yours,

T. C. JORDAN.

Captain John Donnell Smith is from Baltimore, Md. He is now past seventy three years of age. His fortune is ample, and he is a man of considerable scientific attainments. He cherishes a warm affection for his comrades of the Jordan Battery.

He entered the Confederate States service in January, 1862, as volunteer Aide de Camp on the staff of Major General Magruder, commanding the Army of the Peninsula. In March following, he became by election Junior First Lieutenant in Page's Battery, and in October following as has been related, he was transferred to the Jordan Battery, in which he took rank as Senior First Lieutenant.

Major T. C. Jordan says of him: "He was a gallant, skilful and accomplished officer, of whom it can be truthfully said, that he had not a superior in the artillery service of the army."

505 Park Avenue,
Baltimore, Md., Nov. 12, 1902.

My Dear Sir:—

After mature deliberation, I have decided to send you an exact copy of some notes that I jotted down in my pocket memorandum book, intending to transcribe them later in my regular Journal, that I kept throughout the war. But this Journal, together with the Company papers was in the rear chest of the caisson that was captured at Sailor's Creek. So that this pocket book is the only thing of the kind I preserved.

I thought these notes of the last eleven days of the War might interest, at least, our old comrades, and perhaps the general public would like to see exactly how matters went in our little circle at that time.

1865, April 2, near Howlett's Bluff, on James River, Chesterfield County. The enemy took our entrenched picket line this morning before day break, and then charged through the obstructions toward the main line. They were easily driven back to cover, and after an hour's firing were compelled to abandon the picket line in disorder, losing about 100 men. My guns from their position played the chief part in this affair, firing about 200 rounds of shell, and four spherical case from the Mountain Howitzer in charge of Sergeant Reed. This Howitzer became early disabled from the axletree breaking, in moving it from its embrasure to the top of the parapet, in order to obtain a wider field of fire. Our little detachment of extra men, armed with muskets, under command of Private Hatcher, kept up a spirited fire. That afternoon I received orders to retire, and after dark the line was evacuated, carrying off four guns and three caissons, first destroying one caisson, one set of harness, twenty muskets and one box of hand grenades, also burying the Howitzer and its ammunition in a sink. Marched with Mahone's Division.

3rd.—Through Chesterfield Court House on the road to Amelia Court House.

4th.—Six men dropped out, and missing at Roll Call. Crossed the Appamattox at Goode's Bridge, and camped two miles beyond.

5th.— Start an hour before daybreak. Halt an hour at Amelia Court House. Lieutenant Carr ordered off to collect horses. Have received one horse on this march. Put Thurman and Bower on duty with the First section to be detached and travel with wagon train. Wise goes with me and the Second Section and one caisson to march with the troops. March all night in the direction of High Bridge. Huger tells me I have been applied for by Lieutenant Col. Frank Smith, Commanding Battalion of Heavy Artillery, to be promoted as Major in that service. I decline, and express my preference for remaining with my company and in my own branch of the service.

6th.— Move on. About three o'clock, P. M. the head of the column is struck by the enemy's cavalry, and being without infantry support all ten guns are captured. I make my escape with the greater part of the men. Pickett's Division coming up, one of my pieces with a caisson, and one of Ficklin's are recaptured. I put the gun in position on the line of Hunter's Brigade, and fire all the available ammunition except a few rounds of canister. By order of Major Jordan I then attempt to take off the gun following behind Pickett's Division. Capt. Taylor is killed in a charge by cavalry from our rear. The troops being surrounded and cut off, no stand is any longer made and the infantry break in confusion. After carrying the gun a mile with three horses, the fourth having been shot, I order the men to cut the traces and gallop off the best they can, and save themselves. We escape through to the road, on which Anderson is marching. With as many of the men as I can collect, we march on, and crossing near midnight at High Bridge, spend the rest of the night on the other side.

7th.— Move with the troops towards Farmville, and just before reaching it, branch off towards New Store, where I spend the night.

8th.— Rejoin here my First Section, and the rest of the Battalion. March toward Appomattox Court House and encamp a few miles from it.

9th.— Move a mile to the front, and counter march. Halt and unlimber in position with Mahone's Division. Gen. Alexander announces to me, that Gen. Lee is treating for the surrender of his army

10th.— Send in a property Return and a Muster Roll of the Company, showing five officers, and sixty-one men. Move a mile to the front, and pack the pieces with the rest of the Artillery of the Army I sign a parole.

11th.— The guns are moved into the road, and left there to be taken charge of by the enemy

12th.— Have the Company formed at sunrise, bid each man farewell, and then give out the paroles to the officers and men, and receive my own. In the afternoon I pass the lines on my horse, in company with a party of officers, on my way homeward.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN DONNELL SMITH.

Lynchburg, Va., March 2, 1903.

Rev Jos. A. Graves, Bedford City, Va.

Dear Joe:—I am glad to learn that you have determined to write a history of the Bedford Light Artillery, better known perhaps by the names of Jordan's and Smith's Battery I gladly comply with your request to write a letter giving some account of my connection with the Company and the part it performed.

I was a student at Randolph-Macon College, in Mecklenburg County, Va., when the war began. As soon as my examinations were over, not waiting to attend the commencement exercises, I hastened home to Liberty Va., now Bedford City, where my father, Rev. Lemuel S. Reed was then living, he being at that time, pastor of Bedford Circuit, which included Liberty.

After consultation with my father, it was determined that I should enlist in the Bedford Light Artillery, then stationed at Jamestown Island.

As soon as my outfit could be prepared, I hastened to Jamestown Island, and enlisted as a soldier of the Southern Confederacy This was about the middle of July 1861.

I was assigned to a tent with John Harmon Stone, Leslie Talbot, Will Hoffman, Fletcher and Jim Bondurant and Joe Brosius.

The Company was drilling daily both with muskets and

heavy Artillery, the Government being unable as yet to furnish us with Light Artillery guns.

We were then stationed at the upper end of the Island, not very far from the old church. Good quarters were built as the winter came on. A member of the Company, Kirkpatrick, being a stove dealer, was detailed to go home and bring back his stock of cooking stoves. We bought him out, and each mess had its own cooking stove which enabled us both to be warmed and fed at the same time. During the winter, quarters were built for us lower down, about midway of the Island, preparatory to receiving the Light guns which were promised us.

In the mean time the Company had been reorganized. In the first organization, the officers were, Capt. T C. Jordan; Lieutenants, Hensley, Claytor and Aunspaugh. At the reorganization, the following officers were elected: Capt. T C. Jordan; Lieutenants, Bower, Boley and Thurman.

The new guns were secured about February, but they were not by any means Light Artillery. The Battery was composed of one twelve pounder—old fashioned. It doubtless had seen service in the Mexican war. The other guns were three twenty-four pounders, iron Howitzers—very heavy

In the reorganization, I was appointed a brevet Sergeant which honor, I politely but positively declined, but nevertheless, I was given charge of that twelve pounder, and put to drilling a detachment.

It was not long before Gen. McClellan invaded the Peninsula, then in command of Gen Magruder, and we were called from Jamestown to engage in active warfare. Leaving the Island we were ordered to Dam No. 1, where in the first engagement the Company gave a good account of itself. Here Sullivan was killed, and later Dr. J Y M. Jordan, a brother of our Captain.

I was not in the fight at Dam No. 1, for I had been sent with my gun, to guard another position, at which place a small fortification on a mill pond, I found one or two guns of Page's Battery under the command of Lieutenant John Donnell Smith, who afterward, when Page's Battery had been united with our Battery and Capt. Jordan, had been promoted to be Major, became the Captain of the Bedford

Light Artillery and surrendered with the Company at Appomattox Court House.

From this point on the mill pond, I was ordered to Dam No. 1 with my gun and placed in the fortification at that place. It was at this position that Jim Bondurant, Joe Brosious and I slept in a mud hole under the limber chest of the gun, and kept the water from running in our ears by the use of bags which were being used to make the fortification. There was a night attack; the rain came down in torrents; the trenches were filled with infantry; sleeping room was scarce; so we got in the hole filled with water, soon warmed it with our bodies, and then had a soft and comfortable bed to sleep in. The next morning, we dipped the water out of our bed, dried our clothes in the sun, and felt no ill effects. After remaining in charge of my own gun at Dam No. 1 for several days, I was ordered to take my detachment and take charge of a gun at Winn's Mill on our left. After remaining at this point for several days, I was ordered back to Dam No. 1, but instead of being put in charge of my own gun, which was in a fairly well protected portion, I was sent with my men to take charge of one of our guns at the most exposed and dangerous place on the line. Why this was done I have never known. We were so exposed to Sharp Shooters at this point that a man ran the risk of his life to go for water in the day time. Our food was cooked in the rear and brought to us at night. My resting place while in position was upon two pine poles, taken from the lap of a large pine. The poles were placed across the spokes of the wheels of the limber chest of the gun. Such a bed was not conducive to sleep, but it enabled me to be very watchful at night, which was so necessary at this point. How long we remained in this position I do not now recall, but I very well remember the night when the order was given to move, and how careful we were in hitching up the team and moving with as little noise as possible, lest the enemy who had our exact range should open fire upon us.

We breathed easier when we found ourselves once more out of the range of the enemy's guns. We had then started on the retreat to Richmond. The roads were fearful. We were halted in the streets of Williamsburg while the battle at that place was raging, expecting soon to take our part

in the fight, but the mud was too deep, and our light guns too heavy to risk so near the enemy, and so we were ordered to march on.

We took no decided part in the battles around Richmond. We engaged in Artillery duels ever and anon, were on hand and expected to take a hand in the battle of Malvern Hill, but those heavy guns could not be gotten in position, so we escaped that bloody battle. After the battles around Richmond we were encamped for a while on a branch running in the rear of Oakwood Cemetery. From thence we moved about four miles from Richmond on the Brook Road, where we were organized into a Battalion of Artillery, under the command of Col. S. D. Lee and Major Delaware Kemper. Here we received a battery of light guns. One three inch steel rifle gun, two six pounder Howitzers, and one six pound brass gun.

I was put in charge of the three inch steel rifle gun, the only gun of that kind in the Battalion at the time. Here we were drilled by Col. Lee and prepared for our future work, which was not far distant.

At the second battle of Manassas, August 30th, 1862, the Battalion gave a good account of itself, and Jordan's battery, as we were then called, was second to no other battery in its work.

From thence we made our way to Maryland. Of the artillery duels which Col. Lee managed to give that three inch steel rifle gun, ever and anon, I need not speak.

Sharpsburg was soon reached. In an artillery duel two days before the battle, I had my horse disabled. Many of the men were sick. I was suffering from jaundice. Food was scarce, or none at all—green corn and fruit being procured when it could be found.

At daylight September 17th, 1862, the great struggle began. Our Battery took in only three guns. Every gun was worked with reduced numbers. We were near the Dunkard church. Here the battle raged, and Jordan's Battery was in the midst. The hail of shell and schrapnel was fearful. The ground around us was in a work. I did not lose a man or horse at my gun. The other guns suffered. Men and horses were killed and wounded. From this position to the right and in front of the Dunkard church, looking from the town of Sharpsburg, we fell

back to just beyond the church, in a cornfield, the battery being between the church and the town, but not more than seventy-five or a hundred yards from the church. Here we again opened fire, and only left our position when the infantry of the enemy was in a hundred or so yards of us. Returning from the field to replenish ammunition and get ready for another conflict with the enemy, it was found that only enough men were able for service, to man two guns. I was given charge of the brass gun. These guns were directed through the town of Sharpsburg and placed on the ridge just beyond the village and to the left of the road running through the village of Sharpsburg.

It was a dangerous place. The enemy's long range guns had perfect range of our position. My gun had fired only twice and was all ready to fire the third time when my left hand was torn off by a shell. I had scarcely left the gun for the rear, before Ned. Scott was killed and the horses and men disabled.

This ended my connection with the Company until July 1864, when I returned and took up my duties again. Of the glorious history of the Company in East Tennessee, the battle of Fredericksburg, Spottsylvania Court House and Gettysburg, I know nothing, except what has been told me personally by the members of the Company and from history.

My wounded arm having become able to endure exposure, I had my detail in the Quartermaster's Department revoked and returned to the Company in July '64, about the time the Battery reached the lines on the James River at the Howlett House. Here I remained during the summer and winter. Rations were scarce, many of the men were sick, but the courage of Smith's Battery, as we were then known, was unabated. It was during this winter when everything looked so dark for the Confederacy, that a series of resolutions, which I had the honor to originate were adopted by the Company, pledging our allegiance and undying devotion to our country and our determination to fight to the bitter end. Capt. Smith sent these resolutions to the Richmond Examiner for publication. It was the beginning of like resolutions from many companies and regiments in the Army of Northern Virginia.

There was no special fighting at the Howlett lines. We did some sharp-shooting for our gun boats, and repelled an attack Sunday morning just before we left the line. I was sent with the two guns whose route was nearest the enemy. At Sailor's Creek the guns of the Battalion were captured by Sheridan's Cavalry. They charged us unawares and before we could unlimber our guns for action we were in their hands.

In company with others, I took part in the recapture of one of our guns, which Capt. Smith used with deadly effect upon the enemy. Of my part in that conflict, others have spoken.

Soon Appomattox Court House was reached and the end came. I was paroled with the others and went home full of faith in the success of the Confederacy.

While at the Howlett House lines, I was associated in mess with John Harmon Stone, J. A. Graves, and Thomas W. Reed, my brother.

This was a pleasant and harmonious mess. We had a good time together. Many amusing incidents might be given if time and space permitted. John Harmon Stone, peace to his memory! A braver, truer soul never lived. A model soldier, a true friend, I loved him like a brother.

I saw him rolling a wheel in the face of the enemy's fire and replacing a broken wheel, bring off his gun at Sharpsburg.

And my old mess mate, Joe Graves. A soldier true was Joe, faithful unto the end, and whenever his gun and detachment went into battle, he was always there.

God bless all the members of the Bedford Light Artillery! May they be soldiers of the Cross and followers of the Lamb. God bless their children and their children's children, and make them brave and true like their fathers.

Sincerely yours

J. C. REED

Bedford City, Va., March 4, 1903.

Rev. Jos. A. Graves,

My Dear Comrade:— I am much pleased to know that you will soon have before the public a memorial in the

in the shape of a book of the "Bedford Light Artillery," an organization which is dear to my heart, and ever will be—an organization as a member of which my services were enlisted as a private soldier to go in defence of my country, and as a mere boy; yet in these late years I can but look upon the past and think of the gallant men who composed this dauntless band of invincible patriots who so nobly and fearlessly performed every duty imposed upon them without one word of complaint, from the early days at Jamestown, Dam No. 1, and Winn's Mill, on through all the bloody struggles to Appomattox. The memory of the old Battery will ever remain as a green spot and my devotion to its achievements will go with me to my grave. While I wept for those who gave up their lives for the cause, and others who were maimed and disabled, I still love to think of the many pleasant things which occurred during the struggle. The hardships which we underwent never cooled the ardor and tenacity of the boys; in cold or heat, camp or battlefield, hungry or naked, good humor and fun, were always uppermost in the minds of the boys who composed the never to be forgotten Bedford Light Artillery, from the time we first had those old twelve pound iron howitzers, drawn by from eight to ten mules, up to the time we got the four three inch rifle pieces which General Jackson captured at Harper's Ferry. They were little beauties. And all of the Company loved them as devotedly as Tom Marsh loved his horses.

I would like to mention the names of the entire battery as I remember them, but time will not permit, so I will have to forego that pleasure.

Our officers were all that could be desired, both as to qualifications, gallantry on the battlefield, and their attention and treatment of the men under them. Our first Company commander, Captain Tyler C. Jordan, was a model officer in every respect, and was loved and respected by every member of the Battery, who was promoted Major of Artillery, for gallant services and fine attainments. Our second commanding officer was Captain John Donnell Smith, of Baltimore, and a more efficient, faithful and gallant officer never drew sword than he. A strict disciplinarian, yet a man of warm, genial disposition, but not

demonstrative, yet kind and firm with his men. They were devotedly attached to him and would gladly have laid down their lives for him. Brave did you say? Ask the men who fought under him, ask General James Longstreet, General E. P. Alexander, Major T. C. Jordan, and they will tell you there was none braver. He was an educated man, a good man, a true man, and a man that knew no fear. How we all loved him, loved to do little acts of kindness for him, loved to obey his every order, but how we loved to see him mounted on that magnificent white horse at the head of the Battery, and when the time of action arrived he would give the command to "unlimber, commence firing." He was always found at the front, urging the boys on to victory.

Hoping that you will be successful in placing a copy of your book in the hands of many people, I will stop.

Yours very truly,

W P HOFFMAN.



